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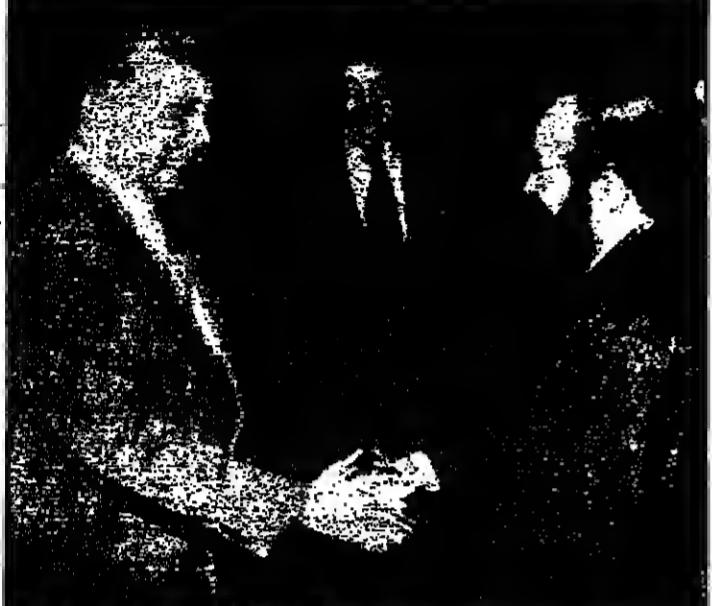
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Opec strikes \$21 target deal

New output ceiling of 22.5 million barrels a day agreed



Kuwaiti Oil Minister Al Ameeri (right) shakes hands with Iraqi Oil Minister Al Chalabi prior to the start of Opec meeting in Geneva. (Reuter wirephoto)

GENEVA, July 27, (Agencies): Opec oil ministers struck a deal today to restrain their production in hopes of forcing up crude prices by several dollars in the next few months.

All 13 ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries signed the accord raising their target price from \$18 a barrel to \$21.

The agreement set a new output ceiling of 22.5 million barrels a day, a bit above the current cap but lower

The agreement set a new output ceiling of 22.5 million barrels a day, a bit above the current cap but lower

The announcement followed two days of talks at the regular mid-year Opec meeting, which was overshadowed by a bitter dispute.

The Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr Rasheed Salem Al Ameeri, today expressed his satisfaction at the outcome of the Opec conference and the decisions reached by the 13 oil ministers.

In a statement, Dr Ameeri paid special tribute to the efforts exerted by all the oil ministers of member countries to ensure the success of the meeting.

He emphasized the "brotherly and co-operative" attitude shown by all parties which enabled the conference to arrive at an agreement that satisfies the interests of all member countries, "while providing the basis for reassertion of Opec's unity and its dominant role and responsibility in restoring stability to the international oil market."

The Kuwaiti oil minister considers the new price level of \$21 per barrel, as "a good compromise that would meet the legitimate interests of all member countries."

Dr Ameeri said that Kuwait re-affirms its commitment to adhere to the new agreement, and is certain that all member countries will also abide by the terms of the agreement.

He expressed hope that this agreement would be another step in re-consolidating and re-asserting Opec's unity in order to achieve its short and long-term objectives.

In reaching agreement, the ministers persuaded Iraqi Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi to back off his demand for a \$25-a-barrel target price. Others said \$25 was too high.

The current target price of \$18 has been in effect since December 1986. The current production limits is about 22.09 million barrels a day, based on individual quotas set for each member nation.

Aqazadeh said the new agreement was reached at the highest levels of the Opec governments, so he was confident the output levels would be strictly followed.

"The minimum reference price is \$21, and the ceiling is 22.49," he said.

Aqazadeh said ministers also agreed they will increase their production ceiling and target price in tandem, instead of the recent practice of changing the ceiling while keeping the target price the same.

The United States currently provides no military support and, other than credits, no economic aid to Iraq.

The amendment would prohibit the president from providing new credits to Iraq until that government complies with its obligations under a number of international accords.

It would also prevent sale of any items on the US munitions list or dual-use technologies with military applications. Exceptions are made for humanitarian aid, however.

The United States currently provides no military support and, other than credits, no economic aid to Iraq.

An official Saudi source was quoted by the Saudi Press Agency as saying the bilateral meeting, which will be held in Jeddah in the coming few days, was the fruit of the good brotherly endeavours of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud on containing the sudden differences between brothers.

The source also praised the mediation of the Egyptian president in this

(Continued on Page 11)

Hill votes severe sanctions on Iraq

WASHINGTON, July 27, (Reuter): The US Senate voted today to bar government credits, arms sales or sensitive technology to Iraq, including it of human rights abuses and past use of chemical weapons.

The 53-12 vote for the amendment to a new five-year farm bill came just days after Iraq-Kuwait dispute over oil.

At the same time, the House of Representatives approved an amendment to its version of the farm legislation to cut off agriculture credits to Iraq and re-allocate its share among other nations. The administration has given Iraq \$500 million in loan guarantees this year to buy US farm goods.

"We shall not give to the Iraqis the kind of special treatment you reserve for friends, for allies," said Senator Alfonse D'Amato, a New York Republican and author of the amendment.

"We've waited for Saddam to take a more humane course and it has not been done.

The Senate is hoping to wrap up work on the farm bill later today, with final House action expected next week. A special conference committee will be appointed to work out a final, compromise version of the bill.

Before approving the amendment the Senate voted 57-38 against a proposal to let the administration waive the credit restrictions if they were found to harm US producers of farm goods or manufactured products more than they hurt Iraq.

The Bush administration has condemned the Iraqi threats to "burn up half of Israel" in retaliation for any Israeli attack on Iraq.

It opposes the sanctions, however, arguing they are not an effective way to force changes in Iraqi behavior.

The administration this year has given Iraq \$500 million in Commodity Credit Corp. loan guarantees to buy US farm products and about \$200 million in Export-Import Bank aid.

The sanctions would be in effect until the White House certifies that Iraq has met its obligations under a number of international accords.

"Who do we figure we're punishing by depriving the people of (Iraq) the food they need to live day to day?" said Senator John Breaux.

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(Continued on Page 11)

Jeddah talks today

Experts to discuss border, loans and oil policy

CAIRO, July 27, (Agencies): Talks between Kuwait and Iraq to settle the dispute over oil and border issues will begin tomorrow in the Saudi port city of Jeddah. Egyptian diplomatic sources said.

The sources said that the two countries' experts would discuss border demarcation, Kuwaiti loans to Iraq and co-ordination of oil policies to boost international prices.

The added that oil, political and financial experts from the two sides will take part in the meeting to define points of difference prior to



Naccache in Tehran on pardon by France

PARIS, July 27, (AP): Anis Naccache, convicted of killing two people during a botched assassination attempt ordered by Iran, was freed by France today after spending 10 years in prison.

The Justice Ministry said Naccache and four accomplices left on an Iran Air flight for Tehran this afternoon after their release was ordered by President Francois Mitterrand.

Naccache, a Lebanese terrorist whose release had been sought by Iran for years, went on a 19-week hunger strike ending in January in a bid to obtain his freedom. His weight dropped from 164 to 105 pounds.

There were unconfirmed press reports that he resumed eating after obtaining assurances he would be freed this year.

He and three members of his group were sentenced to life imprisonment for a July 18, 1980 attempt to kill Shapour Bakhtiar, Iran's prime minister before the 1979 Islamic revolution. A fifth member of the team, who did not open fire, was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Bakhtiar escaped injury and still lives in Paris, where the attack occurred. But a policeman and a bystander were killed and three people were wounded, including a policeman who remains paralyzed.

Both defence and prosecution said at the trial that Naccache and his team were acting on orders from senior Iranian officials.

The four freed along with Naccache were Mehdji Nejad Tabrizi and Mohamed Jawad Jenah, both Iranians, Faouzi Mohammed El Satahi, a Palestinian, and Salaheddine El Kaaris, a Lebanese.

The Justice Ministry announced the release in a two-sentence communiqué which said the five, "have benefited from an act of clemency after having spent 10 years in prison. They have been issued an order of expulsion from French territory which was carried out today."

Iranian newspaper Tehran Times said the release by France of Naccache gave new hope for the release of European hostages held in Lebanon.

settling them.

The sources indicated that the two-day meeting would not issue recommendations or resolutions, adding each delegation would submit detailed reports on their talks to their respective foreign ministers on differences and means of settling them.

The Iraqi news agency reported yesterday that Deputy Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council Ezzat Ibrahim will head the Iraqi delegation to the talks.

Kuwait backs Sinai scheme

\$200m for settlement

CAIRO, July 27, (Reuter): Kuwait agreed on Wednesday to lend Egypt \$200 million for a massive settlement scheme on the Sinai Peninsula, reclaimed by Egypt from Israel in their 1979 peace treaty.

The Egyptian news agency Mena quoted Egyptian Deputy Minister for International Co-operation Sami Hussein as saying Egypt plans to settle more than one million people in the region.

The first phase of the settlement plan will cost \$925 million and will be mainly financed by Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, he said.

Water from the Nile River will

be pumped under the Suez Canal to irrigate 400,000 acres (161,000 hectares) of desert land.

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Asian currency exchange rates against the Kuwaiti dinar on July 26, valued for July 30, 1990.

Currency	Buying	Selling
US dollar	289.66	290.81
Sterling	523.70	526.08
Deutsche mark	178.36	179.19
Swiss franc	209.85	210.84
French franc	053.21	053.45
Italian lire	0002435	0002448
Japanese yen	0019323	0019414
Bahraini dinar	768.33	771.59
Qatari riyal	079.54	079.93
Saudi riyal	077.23	077.55
Omani riyal	752.16	755.65
UAE dirham	078.85	079.19

Asian currency exchange rates against Kuwaiti dinar on July 26, valued for July 30, 1990.

Currency	KD	Buying	Selling
Indian Rupee (1,000)	16.600	3,480.000	3,480.000
Pak. Rs	13.380	3,465.000	3,465.000
Sri Lankan Rupee	7.250	25.41 per gm.	25.550
Singapore dollar	159.70	21.41 per gm.	3.500
Hong Kong dollar	37.40	18.41 per gm.	4.450
Bangladesh taka	9.680	40.70 per gm.	407.000
Philippine peso	12.630	One ounce gold	113.000

Courtesy: Abdalaziz & Ali Al Yousif Al Mazaini Co.

The dollar sank against other major currencies in Europe Friday after a weaker US gross national product figure increased prospects for lower interest rates.

Gold prices also moved down.

In London, the British pound rose to \$1.8350 from \$1.8133 late Thursday.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Thursday:

■ 1.6145 West German marks, down from 1.6220

■ 1.3680 Swiss francs, down from 1.3780

■ 5.4080 French francs, down from 5.4355

■ 1.1521 Canadian dollars, down from 1.1513

In Tokyo, the dollar rose 0.64 yen to a closing 130.75 yen. Later, in London, it was quoted at 149.70 yen.

Gold fell in London to a late bid price of \$367.15 a troy ounce, down from \$368.65 bid late Thursday.

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

KD 250 must be won

Coupons for game No. 78 will appear from tomorrow to August 4. Last date for sending entries is August 6 and the numbers will be drawn from August 8.

PRIZES

Four Corners KD 25

Top Line KD 25

First Full House KD100

Second Full House KD 60

Third Full House KD 40

Scotland Yard probe into murders of young boys during making of 'snuff movies'</

Tens of thousands roam Sri Lanka in vain search for peace

VAVUNIYA, Sri Lanka, July 27. (Reuters): Tens of thousands of refugees are roaming the war zone of this Indian Ocean island, often stumbling into combat in their search for peace.

"I've got two sons aged 18 and 20 so I brought them here," said a Tamil woman slumped beside a suitcase on the verandah of a Catholic church in this army-occupied northern town.

The verandah gave her some shelter from the equatorial sun. She was hoping the church would also give some shelter from the army of Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority.

Like many mothers in Sri Lanka's northeast, where Tamil rebels last month renewed their war for a separate state, she feared troops would seize her sons as potential guerrillas.

"But even the church is unsafe. Sometimes the army calls," the woman said. She declined to give her name.

International aid workers said there were between 120,000 and 30,000 refugees roaming throughout the northeast, victims of a 20-year-old war.

Army officers say they want to restore normal life in the towns they are recapturing

from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who held effective control of the northeast until they broke off peace talks.

But civilians who ventured into Vavuniya's gutted and looted town centre encountered slurred challenges from off-duty soldiers lounging beneath the broken bunting of a shop, and sharp yells from trigger-ready troops at a central roadblock.

While international agencies try to decide how to set up camps where they could ensure civilian safety, many refugees flee from one combat zone into another.

Tamil expatriate Sathasivam Patkumathas

came from Paris on holiday last month with her husband and their daughters, aged five and three.

The family was in Trincomalee in the east on June 13 when troops arrived. "We heard fighting and the people were running," Patkumathas said. So they trekked to a village up the coast. "Then there was trouble there too."

Two boat trips, a bicycle ride and some costly lifts from truck drivers brought the family to the Tigers' northern stronghold of Jaffna. "We found the army was bombing Jaffna."

So the family paid 10 times the normal fare

for a coach ride to Colombo. The driver offloaded the passengers outside Vavuniya, 220 km (135 miles) north of the capital. They walked to the church, arriving there on July 19.

Trincomalee has been in army hands this month. Most of the 15,000 Tamils in the town of 40,000 people fled when Sinhalese and Muslims burned Tamil shops and homes to celebrate the army takeover. Now the Tamils are creeping back, to hide indoors by day and huddle in church buildings at night.

"Even in their own houses, these people are refugees," said a social worker.

Some refugees have not moved far from their homes," said an aid worker in Colombo. "Then you have internal refugees (from the bombing) in the Jaffna peninsula."

"There are people coming down from the north, and there's the problem of a real (Tamil) exodus to the north, tens of thousands of people planning to go to Jaffna or India," the aid worker said.

Thirty thousand Tamils have so far fled across the Palk Strait to the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, which has ethnic ties with Sri Lanka's northeast.

Pakistan praises Soviets

ISLAMABAD, July 27. (Kma): President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has hoped that as a result of the policy introduced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to reshape the international relations of the Soviet Union, the Kremlin leadership will take bold and liberal initiative for spiritual and cultural revival of the Muslims of Soviet Union.

He expressed this hope while talking to the members of the visiting delegation of USSR Muslim Religious Board for Central Asia and Kazakhstan at the presidency here.

The delegation is led by director of the board and member of the Soviet Parliament Grand Mufti Mohammad Sadik Yusupov, who apprised Ishaq of various aspects of new freedom given to Muslims in Soviet Union. He also spoke of the efforts being made by Soviet Muslims to revive their religious institutions and establish their cultural identity.

The president recalled that Central Asia was once centre of Islamic learning and scholarship and cradle of Muslim culture.

Ghulam Ishaq expressed satisfaction and pleasure at the new liberalisation of official Soviet policy towards its Muslim population and said this was the result of the positive change in the Soviet thinking inspired by Gorbachev.

Tigers massacre 41

Two military camps in north attacked

COLOMBO, July 27. (Agencies): Fleeing Tamil rebels hacked and shot to death 41 Sinhalese and Muslim villagers, accusing them of helping the army in Sri Lanka's civil war, the military claimed yesterday.

There was no immediate response from the rebels, and it was not possible to confirm the report independently.

The officials, who cannot be identified under the briefing rules, said the killings occurred in five northern and eastern villages on Tuesday and Wednesday.



Mohammed Ahsan Dar (center), the chief commander of the largest Kashmiri group gestures during a press conference in Srinagar. (Reuter wirephoto)

War over Kashmir not ruled out, says Pakistan minister

ISLAMABAD, July 27. (Agencies): Pakistan's Defence Minister Ghulam Sarwar Cheema has said a war with India over the disputed Himalayan state of Kashmir cannot be ruled out.

In an interview published yesterday he said Pakistani armed forces were "fully prepared to thwart any surprise attack" by India.

Cheema said India might attack Pakistan when it realised it could not suppress a violent Muslim independence campaign in its part of Kashmir.

"The danger of outbreak of war could not be

In the south, unidentified gunmen shot to death 13 Sinhalese villagers, in what could be a resurgence of a Sinhalese extremist group seven months after the government said it was exterminated.

Tamil separatist rebels attacked two seaside military camps in the north with small arms and mortar fire and were repulsed by naval gunboats, military officers said on Friday.

One soldier and several rebels were injured in attacks on the Kankasanthurai army and navy camps at the northern tip of the Indian Ocean

island, the military said.

In Batticaloa in the east, one soldier was killed and six wounded when a patrol was attacked by rebels armed with mortars and automatic weapons, military sources said.

Several rebels were killed in the army's mopping up operations in the east, where authorities said the guerrillas were on the run in dense, tropical jungle.

Sri Lanka's top general said on Thursday he estimated 2,000 Tamil rebels had been killed in six weeks of fighting with government troops.

General Cyril Ranatunga, the Defence Ministry secretary, said 785 Tigers were confirmed killed since the rebels launched an offensive in the north and east on June 11, ending 14 months of peace talks with the government.

Nearly 500 security force members have been killed, he said.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told reporters that government troops in the North and East have scattered guerrillas of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

"The Tamil terrorists are on the run into the jungles and in desperation they want to kill as many as possible before they get killed," Wijeratne said.

The military officials said militants hacked and shot to death 19 Sinhalese villagers at midnight on Wednesday in the north-central Madawalehiya district. They earlier reported 20 people died but later said one seriously injured man was taken for dead.

The rebels also set fire to 20 huts in the village before escaping into the jungles, said the officials.

They said 18 more Sinhalese and four Muslims were killed in four attacks in the northeastern, north-central and eastern districts. Four rebels and a soldier also were killed in fighting.

Most fighting now is concentrated below the northern peninsula of Jaffna, the militant stronghold.

Government troops on Tuesday took control of a 10-kilometre (6-mile) corridor from Kilinochchi to Elephant Pass, which connects the food-shaped peninsula with the mainland.

"It is a matter of time to clear up the passage to Jaffna," Wijeratne said. He added the Tiger rebels "seem to be brave fighters facing up to our onslaught."

Lunar dates unity sought

ISLAMABAD, July 27. (Reuters): Pakistan's religious affairs minister on Wednesday urged Muslim scholars and scientists to help end arguments about the Islamic calendar which often mar Islamic festivals.

Khan Bahadur Khan told a seminar in Islamabad that disputes about the start of a lunar month in the Islamic calendar were an odd spectacle to the present age of modern technology.

He asked participants in the two-day seminar to use their skills "to solve the problem of determining the first (day) of the lunar month." The group of experts is expected to make recommendations to the government.

Orthodox Muslim scholars say that to calculate the start of the month, the crescent moon must be seen with the naked eye.

DHAKA, July 27. (Reuters): Bangladeshi doctors called today for a three-day general strike starting tomorrow spreading panic through hospitals and clinics across the country.

Hundreds of patients prepared to leave the Dhaka Medical College Hospital after doctors protesting against a government ban on private practice called the stoppage.

Nearly 15,000 doctors — the overwhelming majority of practicing physicians in the country — said they would join the strike to force the government to scrap proposed new medical rules.

The doctors were angered by new rules that

Aids will kill 3m women and children

At least three million women and children will die of Aids this decade, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said in a study published yesterday.

According to the report in the British medical magazine The Lancet, Aids had become the leading cause of death for women aged between 20 and 40 in major cities of the Americas, Western Europe and sub-Saharan Africa.

It predicted that several million children who do not carry the Aids virus will become orphans in the 1990s after their infected parents succumb to the killer disease.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome attacks the body's ability to withstand disease and the Aids virus, known as HIV, can be transmitted by sexual contact and intravenous injections.

The report also reported a slow but steady increase in HIV infections among heterosexual populations, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. (Reuter)

Australians get paternity leave

Australian men have been granted the right to bring up babies.

The Australian Industrial Relations Commission on Thursday gave men the right to 52 weeks unpaid paternity leave. Australian women were granted maternity leave in 1979.

"It will be recognised as an important landmark decision which allows a greater sharing of family responsibilities between men and women," said Garry Weaven, assistant secretary of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

"It reflects important changes in Australian society, especially with the influx of women into the workforce."

Under the decision, fathers are entitled to one week unpaid leave at the time of the birth and a further 51 weeks leave before the child's first birthday — provided the mother is not taking maternity leave. (Reuter)

Andreotti appoints new ministers

Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti pulled his one-year-old government back from the brink of collapse yesterday, by appointing five new ministers to replace members of his party who resigned over a broadcasting bill.

He was left facing two parliamentary confidence votes — one on his new cabinet and a second on amendments to the broadcasting bill which forced the reshuffle — but appeared almost certain to win them.

Both votes were expected to be held on Saturday.

Andreotti presented his list of new ministers for defence, education, agriculture, southern affairs and state participation to President Francesco Cossiga and to parliament less than 24 hours after the government crisis blew up. (Reuter)

Kenya launches new Aids drug

Kenya launched a new drug yesterday for the treatment of Aids which researchers said eliminated most symptoms of the disease within four weeks during clinical trials.

President Daniel Arap Moi said at the launch that the interferon-based drug, called Kemron, was not a cure for acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids), but gave hope to sufferers.

Kemron gives hope to thousands of Aids sufferers. But I warn all Kenyans that they should not go loose just because Kemron is now available," he said.

The drug was developed by the state-run Kenya Medical Research Institute (Kemri) in collaboration with companies in Texas and Japan. (Reuter)

Siamese twins separated

Hassan and Salem, Libyan-born Siamese twins joined at the head, were successfully separated early yesterday in an 11-hour operation, doctors said.

The 3-year-old brothers were in "relatively good condition" and expected to recover fully, said Dr Wolfgang Koos, chief neurologist at Vienna's general hospital.

Koos said the fifth and most difficult operation on the twins severed a common artery that supplied blood to the brains of both. The surgery began at 5:30 pm (1530 GMT) Thursday and ended at 4:30 am Friday.

The 12-member surgical team was led by Koos and Dr Robert Spatz of the Barrow Neurological Centre in Phoenix.

Hassan and Salem were flown to Austria shortly after birth and have spent their entire lives in the Vienna hospital. The series of operations to separate them began July 18, with the initial procedure lasting 14 hours.

Koos said it was the final operation that "decided life or death" for the twins.

After a recovery period, the boys will undergo cosmetic surgery to construct a new section of skull, using bone, skin and hair from other parts of the body. (UPI)

US House sustains Bush veto

WASHINGTON, July 27. (AP): Magellan, a robot spacecraft armed with a sophisticated radar, is ready to rendezvous with Venus on Aug 10 when it fires a rocket engine to settle into an orbit that dips to within 170 miles (273 km) of the planet's surface.

Officials said the craft would approach Venus at 24,600 miles per hour (39,580 kph) and the rocket firing will slow Magellan to 18,400 miles per hour (29,600 kph), enough to put it into the planet's orbital grasp.

After a checkout period lasting until about Sept 1, Magellan will use a powerful radar system to penetrate the dense clouds above Venus and take images for a detailed map of the baked surface of the torrid planet.

Tony Spear, the Magellan project manager, said in a news conference that the only major problem experienced by the \$413-million spacecraft during its long journey has been an electrical failure in one gyroscope.

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A Paco Rabanne model wears a black embroidered velvet dress under a pyramid-shaped mesh cage closed with ribbons during the Autumn-Winter 1990-91 High Fashion show on July 25. (Reuter wirephoto)



A disc-shaped hat



A Paco Rabanne model sports a silver chain mail coat with a matching helmet during the Autumn-Winter 1990-91 High Fashion collection on July 25. (Reuter wirephoto)



A fan-shaped hat



A lamp-shaped hat



A pill box knotted under chin hat

Clang, shimmer and shine

Rabanne presents collection

PARIS, July 27. (Reuter): Paco Rabanne has kept up a reputation made through more than 26 years of unremitting avant-garde design by introducing a caged black widow to the catwalk.

Winner of last January's Golden Thimble award for best designer, Rabanne on Wednesday mocked the haughty fashion establishment that snubbed him for decades by showing the slinky widow strutting in a cage.

He poked fun at the haute couture tradition of ending each show with a bridal gown by throwing in three futuristic bridal dresses as well as the widow's outfit during his collection of custom-made autumn and winter gear.

A tightly-sheathed model who looked every bit a black widow spider glided along the catwalk enclosed in a pyramid-shaped wire cage, bound with black bows.

The Spanish-born stylist dressed his brides in chainmail mini-dresses in red, white or blue.

Rabanne, the designer who put metal pants, plastic bodies and paper mache gowns on the catwalks in the 1960s, produced a collection that clangs.

Inherited disease in foetal cells

LONDON, July 27. (Kuwait): A potential breakthrough in the diagnosis of inherited diseases during pregnancy was reported here today.

According to the report in the UK medical journal, *The Lancet*, hereditary illnesses are currently diagnosed by sampling foetal cells obtained from the placenta of the amniotic fluid.

Both these procedures carry a risk of miscarriage, it was pointed out.

But a medical team in Australia claim to have discovered a new, safer way to obtain foetal cells which are carried in the mother's blood.

Study links homosexuality, left-handedness

TORONTO, July 27. (Reuter): There may be a relationship between homosexuality and left-handedness, according to a new Canadian study by psychiatrists and neurobiologists.

Researchers at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario found an unusual preponderance of left-handedness among homosexual men and women. They said a similar prevalence was found in a British study in 1987.

The study suggests that handedness may be one of several neurobiological traits on which homosexuals and heterosexuals exhibit statistically different patterns. It also said these differences may be explained by hormonal

imbalance during pregnancy.

"There's a lot of circumstantial evidence that points in this direction, but no one can say it's categorical," said Dr Edward Kingstone, one of the study's co-authors.

He said that because left-handedness is biologically determined and because people with a homosexual orientation have a greater-than-expected occurrence of left-handedness, researchers suspect that homosexuality is a biological characteristic and not a learned one.

But Kingstone cautioned against using left-handedness as indicator of sexual behaviour.

'She Ain't Worth It' on top of American pop charts

NEW YORK, July 27. (AP): "She Ain't Worth It" kept Bobby Brown for another week Wednesday at number one on the pop singles record charts in the United States.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets.

1. (1) "She Ain't Worth It" — Bobby Brown (MCA).
2. (6) "Vision of Love" — Mirah Carey (Columbia).
3. (4) "Cradle of Love" — Billy Idol (Cyclone).
4. (5) "Rub You the Right Way" — Johnny Gill (Motown).
5. (19) "The Power" — Snap! (Arista).
6. (13) "Hold On" — En Vogue (Atlantic).
7. (17) "Girls Night Out" — Tyler Collins (RCA).
8. (13) "Hanky Panky" — Madonna (Warner Brothers).
9. (12) "King of Wishful Thinking" — Co West (EMI).
10. (16) "If Wishes Came True" — Sweet Sensation (Aico).
11. (10) 10 country-and-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets.
12. (4) "When I Call Your Name" — Vince Gill (MCA).
13. (3) "The Richest Man on Earth" — Paul Orlowski (RCA).
14. (8) "I'm Gonna Be Somebody" — Travis Tritt (Warner Brothers).
15. (7) "Good Times" — Dan Seals (Capitol).
16. (6) "He Talks to Me" — Lorrie Morgan (RCA).
17. (1) "Next to You, Next to Me" — Shenandoah (Columbia).
18. (12) "I Wanted" — Alan Jackson (Arista).
19. (1) "On Down the Line" — Patty Loveless (MCA).
20. (13) "The Dance" — Garth Brooks (Capitol).
21. (10) "This Side of Goodbye" — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers).
22. (1) "Turtle Power" — Partners in Kryme (Polygram).
23. (3) "I Can't Touch This" — M.C. Hammer (Capitol EMI).
24. (16) "Hanky Panky" — Madonna (Sire-WEA).
25. (5) "Mona" — Craig McLachlan and Check 1-2 (Epic-CBS).
26. (13) "Naked in the Rain" — Blue Pearl (WAU).
27. (12) "I'm Free" — Soup Dragons (Feat Junior Reid (Raw TV-Big Life-Polygram).
28. (7) "Dope Up" — Snap! (Arista-BMG).
29. (10) "It Must Have Been Love" — Roxette (EMI).
30. (9) "One Love" — Stone Roses (Silvertoe-Zomba).

Keyboard player for the band Grateful Dead

Rocker Mydland found dead

SAN FRANCISCO, July 27. (AP): Brent Mydland, keyboard player for the rock band Grateful Dead, was found dead in his home Thursday. He was 38.

It was unclear when and how he died, said Sgt Richard Terry of the Contra Costa County coroner's office.

"We lost a brother and we are very devastated," said Grateful Dead spokesman Dennis McNally.

The 1960s counterculture band, known for such hits as "Casey Jones" and "Truckin'," retains a loyal cult following today. Fans — known as "Deadheads" and including people who weren't born when the band first came to prominence — follow the group from performance to performance.

An autopsy on Mydland was scheduled for this morning.

Friends apparently went to his home in Lafayette, a suburb 25 miles east of San Francisco, after being unable to contact Mydland, Terry said. He had returned Tuesday from New York City, where the band completed a three-week national tour, Terry said.

Mydland wrote the well-known Grateful Dead tune "Far From Me," and more recently co-wrote the environmental ballad "We Can Run (but we can't hide)," which was used in an Audubon Society video.

He was also known among fans for his "I

Will Take You Home," a lullaby written for his two daughters.

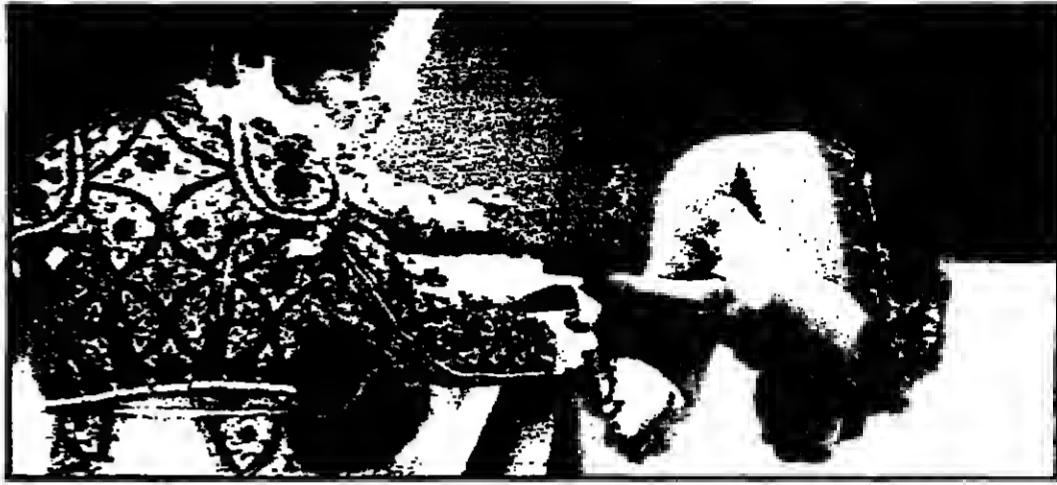
Mydland was born in Germany to American parents stationed there with the military and grew up in the San Francisco bay area, McNally said.

As a teen-ager, Mydland played with small local rock'n' roll bands. He eventually made his name as the keyboard player with the 1970s rock band Silver.

Mydland joined the Grateful Dead in April 1979 after a stint with lead guitarist and vocalist Bob Weir's side band Bobby and the Midnights.

He replaced keyboardist Keith Godchaux, who died a year after leaving the band.

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Spanish bandillero Guillermo Gutierrez (right) is gored by a bull during a bullfight in the northern city of Vitoria, Spain, on July 25. Gutierrez suffered a 20 cms (8 inches) deep wound. (Reuter wirephoto)

DETROIT: Actor Paul Winfield did his homework for his role in

"Presumed Innocent," according to the judge who was his movie.

"He picked up that feeling of the courtroom, with lawyers going back and forth, trying to get in evidence they know they shouldn't get in, the exasperation you feel," district judge Willie G. Lipscomb said at a screening of the new film. Winfield observed Lipscomb's court before playing the judge in the film.

"Presumed Innocent," about a

deputy prosecutor accused of

murdering a colleague, made its US debut Tuesday night at the Detroit Institute of Arts. The movie,

starring Harrison Ford, was filmed partially in Detroit, although the shoot was by Scott Trower was set in a mythical Illinois city. (AP)

VALLETTA: Danish actress

Brigitte Nielsen, ex-wife of American film star Sylvester

Stallone, and Danish film producer

Sebastian Copeland announced

their engagement.

The couple marked the occasion

with a service at a small chapel in

Malta and then threw a party for

100 guests.

Nielsen told guests on

Wednesday she had decided to get

engaged in Malta because she had

friends in the Mediterranean

island. She did not say when she and

Copeland planned to marry. (Reuter)

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Castro tells rally to mark 37th 'versary

'Bush is obsessed with Cuba'

HAVANA, July 27, (AP): President Fidel Castro told a huge rally last night that US President George Bush has a "sick obsession" with trying to topple his communist government.

"Neither asleep nor awake can Bush forget about Cuba," Castro told hundreds of thousands of people massed in Revolutionary Plaza to mark the 37th anniversary of the birth of his revolutionary movement, which took power in 1959.

"When Bush goes to eat breakfast, he finds Cuba in his coffee, in his water, in his bread," Castro said.

Smiling, Castro invited Americans to send boats to pick up Cubans wishing to leave the island, but it was not clear whether he was suggesting a renewal of the Mariel boatlift. Under that operation, 125,000 Cubans went to Florida during a five-month period in 1980.

"If the Yankees decide and they want to receive these poor, persecuted citizens, let them send the boats and the visas," he said with obvious sarcasm.

The anniversary of Castro's revolution is a national holiday, and state media urged citizens to attend the rally. Buildings were draped with Cuban flags for the occasion.

Despite deepening economic problems and growing international isolation, Castro was on the offensive during most of his two-hour 45-minute speech. He appeared intent on rallying patriotic sentiment against Spain and the United States, the foreign powers that once dominated Cuba.

Accused Spain of collaborating with US "imperialist" aims and he announced the cancellation of a \$2.5 million Spanish economic aid programme. Spain suspended the programme last week after Cuba took a hard line

'Did Santos do the right thing'

Crime rampant in Argentina

Argentine kidnap victim slain

Buenos Aires, July 27, (AP): Crime has tripled. Muggers walk free, anger grows along with fear, and Horacio Santos, who chased down and killed two thieves because he couldn't take any more, has become the symbol of all that.

The Santos case jarred many of the 10 million people in Buenos Aires, who felt safe in their city until the last few years.

Historians, sociologists, judges, police, government officials, newspaper vendors — most everyone, it seems, has an opinion and expresses it at cocktail parties, streetcorner conversations, radio talk shows and letters to the editor.

Santos was cleared yesterday of charges of homicide. Judge Luis Cevaco said the 42-year-old engineer was "non-indictable" because he acted while in a state of emotional distress.

One Saturday morning in June, Santos, a hard glass breaking outside, recognised the sound of his car alarm. He rushed to a window and saw two men, laughing, walk off to their own car with his tape deck.

Santos' home had been burglarised twice and thieves had broken into his car 14 times. Overwhelmed by anger, he gave chase.

When Santos caught up to the thieves on the road, he shot one in the head and the other in the throat. Two bullets, two men dead.

He was arrested on homicide charges and confined to a hospital for psychiatric tests. His wife, Norma, said: "I can't believe what happened. Horacio can't either. This is a nightmare."

The man Santos killed were not career criminals. One was a 31-year-old bus driver and the other, 29, worked in a butcher shop. Both had wives and children.

As Argentina's economic recession has shrunk real wages and increased unemployment, more people



Cuban police stand outside the gate of the Spanish Embassy on July 25 in Havana. Eighteen Cubans have taken refuge inside the embassy. (Reuter wirephoto)

on Cubans who entered the Spanish Embassy seeking political asylum.

With the United States now on friendly terms with the Soviet Union, Cuba's chief benefactor, Castro said Bush has become increasingly aggressive toward the Caribbean Island nation of about 10.5 million people.

He cited the start of Voice of America Television broadcasts to Cuba last March as well as subsequent US military manoeuvres near the Cuban coast.

In addition, he noted that Bush has linked US aid to the Soviet Union to a suspension of Soviet economic and military aid to Cuba.

"See how the sick obsession of Bush goes?" Castro asked.

"Neither asleep nor awakes does he forget about Cuba," he

said. "It is a shame for the world."

Cubans have sought refuge at foreign embassies in Havana since July 9, and Castro said the United States has encouraged the actions. He cited the testimony of a Cuban dissident who said recently the alleged US activities began last March.

The US diplomatic mission has denied the allegations.

The state department in Washington had no official reaction to Castro's remarks late yesterday but said there likely would be a response today after US officials have analysed the speech.

Castro also said the United States was indirectly encouraging disaffected Cubans to seek asylum by refusing to live up to the terms of a 1984 immigration

agreement between the countries.

"US officials also have denied that claim and said 10,000 visa applications have been processed since early 1988."

■ Argentine President Carlos Menem yesterday said he will offer to help Cuba and Spain overcome their row over Cubans seeking refuge in the Spanish Embassy in Havana, news agencies reported.

"Cuba is going through a difficult situation... I'll try to have a talk with (Spanish Prime Minister) Felipe Gonzalez to try to do what any Argentine would do, that is to help Spain overcome its problems with (Cuban President) Fidel Castro," he said, the Telam state news agency and the ANA agency reported. (Reuter)

Honduran convicted in drugs death case

Buenos Aires, July 27, (AP): President Carlos Menem was scheduled to attend yesterday's funeral for the victim of a kidnapping that shocked and angered the nation.

The body of Guillermo Ibanez, the 28-year-old son of a prominent union leader, was discovered Wednesday in the ocean resort Mar Del Plata, 400 kilometres (248 miles) south of Buenos Aires. He had been shot in the back of the neck.

Police arrested three men thought to have committed the kidnapping and killing. Charges were pending.

Ibanez was kidnapped July 6. According to news reports, kidnappers demanded a ransom of \$2 million from his father, Diego Ibanez, leader of the powerful state oil workers union and a former national legislator of the ruling Peronist Party.

The kidnapping was front-page news. The discovery of the body was the main story in every Buenos Aires newspaper yesterday.

People turned to crime.

Did Horacio Santos do the right thing?

"I would have done the same, may God forgive me," said Bernardo Neustadt, Argentina's most popular news commentator.

Mariano Grondona, boss of the television program "Key Hour," said: "About 50 per cent of the calls to my programme were in favour of Santos' reaction."

Police acknowledged crime is increasing, but claim it isn't out of control. Most of the offences are muggings and thefts from cars and homes. Street gangs and drug peddlers, like major violent crimes, are uncommon.

Craig Passero, chief of the federal police, said Santos can't be taken as an example" for others because "that would be going back to the law of the jungle."

Robbery and assault have become commonplace in Buenos Aires. Crimes like rape and murder are relatively rare, but some highly publicised cases of violence make people feel vulnerable.

On June 14, two days before the Santos shooting, a businessman who had identified a mugger in a police lineup was shot and killed after the

alleged assailant was released.

Two months ago men brandishing a machine gun tried to force investment broker Esteban Reynal off the main highway north of the city as he drove to his weekend home. He accelerated and outran them.

According to official statistics, the number of crimes in Buenos Aires province was 122,000 last year, compared to 47,000 in 1985. Argentines are increasingly careful about what they wear, where they go and how they get there.

Jurors resumed deliberations today on the fate of three other defendants in the trial, the second US prosecution in the case.

In the first prosecution, in 1988, a former Mexican policeman and two Mexican drug traffickers were convicted of conspiracy charges stemming from the agent's slaying by Guadalajara's powerful drug cartel.

Torture and slaying of Canarens in 1985 incensed US drug enforcement officials and led to a prolonged effort to bring his killers to justice. This year, a Mexican doctor accused of taking part in Canarens' torture was flown to the United States and arrested by US authorities, prompting protests from Mexico that its sovereignty had been violated.

Anti-American riots also broke out in Honduras in 1988 after US authorities arrested Matta and flew him to the United States. Five people died and the US embassy annex was torched.

Honduras has no extradition treaty with the United States, which added to the anger of citizens who knew Matta as the employer of up to 5,000 people at his cattle ranches, dairy farms and cigar factories.

Co-defendants of the "Noriega group" include Marcos Justines, Noriega's chief of staff, in jail in Panama City; Carlos Duque, the 1989 presidential candidate of Noriega's Revolutionary Democratic Party; Michael Harari, a former Israeli military officer; three former ambassadors; his wife, Feleicid; his mistress, Vicki Amado, and others.

Each one of the associates and accomplices... aided in the illicit activities alleged and was illicitly enriched because of their participation in these activities," the suit says.

The suit claims Noriega was paid \$7.95 million for letting drugs flow through Panama. It alleges he also received between \$4 million and \$7 million for protecting members of Colombia's Medellin drug cartel.

It says he earned about \$700,000

during his 28 years as a military officer but is now worth an estimated \$300 million.

Lawyers John Kester, Gregory Craig and Kevin Hasson contend in the suit that Noriega's activities caused Panama "enormous material losses."

Noriega surrendered to American troops after the US invasion of Panama last December and is facing drug trafficking charges in Miami.

The suit asks that Noriega and his allies repay Panama at least \$500 million and that those damages be tripled. It also seeks \$5 billion in punitive damages.

Panamanian officials have said they do not expect to recover that amount but intend it as a statement of damage done to Panama.

The suit outlines cases of alleged assassination, torture, drug trafficking, money laundering, embezzlement, destruction of funds, illegal sale of visas and passports, abuse of authority and abuse of duty while Noriega headed the defunct Panama Defence Forces.

The campaign, launched yesterday, is designed to raise between \$6 and 7 million to chemically treat some 400 of the 980 or so statues.

The statues have made the island a favourite stop for explorers and adventurers since it was "discovered" in 1722, and have baffled scientists unable to determine how they were brought long distances from the volcanic quarries in the island's centre of their resting places.

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Rebels capture border crossing

Doe's troops slaughter civilians

ABIDJAN, July 27, (Agencies): Liberian rebels are advancing steadily into the capital Monrovia and have captured the main border crossing into Sierra Leone, diplomatic sources in neighbouring Ivory Coast said on Friday.

The sources said the rebels advanced into the suburbs of Monrovia on three fronts on Wednesday and Thursday.

But they could not confirm a report from one rebel source that the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) had captured Spriggs Payne downtown airport.

The NPFL was allowing people to leave Liberia for Sierra Leone, but was not allowing anyone into the country, they added.

Doe's demoralised and indisciplined forces now control nothing more than a few square miles (km) of looted and bullet-scarred buildings in central Monrovia.

Most of Doe's remaining soldiers belong to his minority Krahn tribe. They are executing at random members of the Gola and Mano tribes, who provide the backbone of the rebel movement.

Foreign correspondents in Monrovia reported that Doe's soldiers dragged at least two dozen civilians from houses and hospital wards on Thursday and shot them or hacked them to death with machetes.

European Community diplomats in Monrovia issued a statement expressing outrage at the killings. More than 8,000 people fearing for their lives have sought refuge in US embassy residential compound.

The president himself is holed up with several hundred troops in the heavily fortified executive mansion, where he is expected to make a last stand.

Diplomats say Doe, who came to power as a semi-literate master sergeant in a bloody coup 10 years ago, is drinking heavily and has lost touch with reality.

He is also thought to be a virtual prisoner of his own Krahn soldiers, who fear they will be massacred in revenge for their atrocities if Doe flees the country without them.

Diplomats expect Doe's forces to be overcome within a matter of days, but there are fears of infiltration within the rebel camp afterwards.

The mainstream NPFL, led by Charles Taylor, a 42-year-old US-trained economist, is challenged by a smaller dissident force led by former army captain Prince Johnson.

Diplomats say Johnson's forces control the port of Monrovia and the industrial area to the northwest of the centre, while Taylor's forces, which now control most of Liberia, are attacking the city centre from the east.

■ At least 375,000 Liberians have fled to neighbouring countries but an appeal to help them has so far received little response, the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) said today.

A UNHCR spokesman said that of the known 375,000, there are 240,000 sheltering in Guinea, 120,000 in the Ivory Coast and 15,000 in Sierra Leone.

In the first prosecution, in 1988, a former Mexican policeman and two Mexican drug traffickers were convicted of conspiracy charges stemming from the agent's slaying by Guadalajara's powerful drug cartel.

Tribal killings in Liberia's civil war reached a new peak of ferocity when troops loyal to besieged Doe dragged civilians from their homes and hospital beds and slaughtered them on a beach.

At least two dozen people were shot or hacked to death with machetes on Thursday, diplomats and eyewitnesses said.

The victims, some shot back-to-back, were Gola or Mano tribesmen suspected of supporting Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), now only a few streets away from the cliff-top mansion where Doe is making his last stand.

Troops belonging to Doe's minority Krahn tribe — fearing they will be massacred by the rebels to avenge atrocities when their leader is finally forced to flee — hacked civilians from their houses and a hospital ward.

They took some of their victims to a beach near Monrovia's Mamba Point district, killed them and tossed their bodies into the sea.

In addition to being physically sheltered from chlorine, Legionnaire's bacteria also undergo biochemical changes when growing inside amoebas, making the bacteria even more resistant to chlorination.

Scientists already knew Legionnaire's bacteria could multiply only after they are engulfed by amoebas, members of a group of single-celled organisms called protozoa.

In a laboratory study, the Pittsburgh scientists found the same process allows the bacteria to survive chlorination 10 times stronger than is generally accepted as safe for disinfection of drinking water.

WHO estimates that the annual death toll from malaria and its complications ranges between one and two million people. Each year, there are about 170 million new cases of malaria.

An infectious disease transmitted by mosquitoes, malaria is characterised by chills and fevers.

Godal, head of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, said scientists have some evidence that the malaria parasites are also resistant to other drugs not yet used in the area. (AP)

Rebels seize Peruvian town

Rob bank, loot stores, free prisoners

LIIMA, July 27, (AP): Tupac Amaru rebels seized the jungle town of Yurimaguas Wednesday and a police station, a courthouse and a government office were destroyed, the Interior Ministry reported.

Sources at the ministry said 15 policemen were killed in the attack. But a communiqué released later by the ministry reported only two deaths.

The statement, released Wednesday night, said 180 of the pro-Cuban Tupac Amaru rebels attacked Yurimaguas before dawn and that one soldier and one civilian were killed and three soldiers were injured. The statement gave no details about the destruction of the government facilities.

There were no reports of rebel casualties.

The sources said the guerrillas robbed the town's four banks, looted stores and markets stalls and freed prisoners held in the Yurimaguas jail. They blew up electrical towers, leaving Yurimaguas without power.

Yurimaguas, an Amazonian outpost located 430 miles (690 kilometres) north of Lima, has a population of about 15,000.

On Wednesday, three Maoist Shining Path rebels were killed



South Korean dissidents trying to enter the border with North Korea at Imjinak July 27. (Reuters wirephoto)

Koreas fail to agree

Border crossing put off second time

SEOUL, July 27, (AP): North and South Korea failed to agree today on conditions permitting five North Koreans to cross the heavily armed border, forcing the crossing to be cancelled for the second time in two days.

South Korean officials said they received a telephone call from communist officials at mid-afternoon expressing "profound disappointment" and blaming the Seoul government for a "blockade."

Choi Byong-Bo, spokesman for South Korea's National Unification Ministry, said North Korea failed to agree on previously negotiated provisions involving housing and transportation for the five visitors.

The two sides exchanged several messages today after the five North Koreans showed up at the border village of Pannmunjom, about 35 miles (56 km) northwest of Seoul.

About 50 South Korean dissidents carrying flags and placards gathered to welcome the North Koreans at Freedom Bridge on the outskirts of the demilitarized zone.

"Let's advance national unification by holding the pan-national rally" they shouted in unison.

When about 200 riot police blocked the group from marching onto the bridge toward the border, dissidents chanted, "whose country is this? why are we blocked from walking?"

If allowed, the five would be the first civilians to cross the Korean border with the approval of both

governments since a three-day family exchange programme in 1985.

It was apparently coincidence that today was the anniversary of the ceasefire which 37 years ago ended the 1950-53 Korean war. More than 4 million soldiers and civilians were killed and an estimated 10 million Koreans became separated from their families.

North and South Korea were divided in 1945 at the end of World War II. The border between them is tightly sealed and remains the most heavily fortified in the world.

The five North Koreans had been invited to Seoul by South Korean dissident groups to help plan a joint unification rally in mid-August.

The rally would mark the first contact between civilian organisations of the two Koreas.

In the past, South Korean authorities have blocked such contacts out of fear the communist North would turn them into radical anti-Seoul protests.

The renewed possibility of a border crossing came one day after the two Koreas signed a historic agreement setting up the first-ever meeting between their prime ministers. The agenda called for efforts to help end four decades of military and political confrontation.

The outcome of the proposed joint unification rally and the premiers' talks are viewed as a gauge to further inter-Korean relations, which are generally tense.

Moscow, Seoul talks in Aug

SEOUL, South Korea, July 27, (AP): South Korea and the Soviet Union will hold their first round of formal negotiations in Moscow next week with the goal of establishing diplomatic relations, the Foreign Ministry announced today.

South officials have said the two countries may be able to establish ambassadorial ties within this year. Seoul is eager for improved relations with the Soviet Union and other communist countries.

Ministry spokesman Chung Ui-Yong said a 20-member South Korean delegation, led by Kim Chong-In, senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, will leave for Moscow Aug. 1.

Chung said the Soviet delegation will be headed by first Soviet Deputy Premier Yuri D. Maslyukov.

The Korean negotiators will include presidential aides and senior officials from the foreign, economic planning, finance, trade and industry, energy and resources ministries, the spokesman said.

"Seoul and Moscow agreed to limited consular relations last December. Moscow has been a close ally of Pyongyang, Seoul's rival."

South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev agreed in principle to work for the establishment of formal ties when they met in San Francisco June 4.

In a subsequent exchange of letters, the two presidents agreed to have their aides open normalization negotiations in Moscow next month.



Unified opposition

South Korea's largest opposition party resolved Friday to disband to form a unified opposition force against the government of President Roh Tae-Woo. The Party for Peace and Democracy, led by Kim Dae-Jung adopted a resolution in Seoul at the party's national convention.

It followed an earlier agreement by opposition and dissident groups to merge to depose the Roh government they charged is trying to prolong power.

Above: Opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung speaks before a crowd of 3,000 members of his party during the national convention at the Koran Exhibition Centre. (Reuters wirephoto)

Manila bids death penalty for trafficking

KUALA LUMPUR, July 27, (Kuna): The Philippines police, impressed by Malaysia's tough laws against drug trafficking, will recommend the adoption of similar legislation.

The Philippines police chief, Brig Gen. Manolo C. Roxas said today they would also like to introduce the death penalty for drug traffickers.

"We feel the adoption of such stringent laws necessary to curb the proliferation of drugs in our country," he told newsmen.

"We want to classify trafficking in drugs under heinous crimes punishable by death and will make the necessary recommendations to our lawmakers," he added.

Brig Gen. Roxas is here for the ongoing 10th ASEAN Police Chiefs Conference (Asenpol).

De Klerk wants to exclude communist leader from talks with ANC

JOHANNESBURG, July 27, (AP): More arrests of African National Congress and communist activists are expected in connection with an alleged plot to seize power if talks fail, South Africa's police chief said today.

Gen Johan van der Merwe said the detention of a number of senior ANC and South African Communist Party militants in recent days had yielded considerable evidence of a conspiracy.

He told the state-run South African Broadcasting Corp. that more arrests "were likely," but gave no details.

"There is no plot as far as we're concerned," ANC leader Nelson Mandela said today during an appearance at a nursery school in the township of Soweto.

He met yesterday with President F. W. de Klerk to discuss the allegations, and said today he would

meet again with the president on Aug 1, after the ANC's national executive committee meets this weekend.

The committee includes Communist Party members.

ANC spokesman Pallo Jordan told a news conference today that during the meeting with Mandela, De Klerk "expressed the government's preference for the exclusion" of Communist Party leader Joe Slovo from scheduled Aug 6 negotiations between the ANC and the government.

Jordan said the national executive committee would discuss De Klerk's request during its weekend meeting. He said Mandela had no power to remove someone from the ANC's delegation, but "he can make suggestions."

The ANC has been allied with the South African Communist Party for more than four decades. Slovo

is a member of the ANC's executive committee and a former chief of the ANC military wing.

In other developments today police said four blacks had been killed in separate incidents of black factional violence during the past 24 hours. The report gave no details.

Police said they could not confirm local press reports that a woman was killed and 29 people hurt yesterday when armed men attacked a train near Johannesburg. Some reports said the attackers were from Inkatha, the conservative Zulu political movement.

Before the yesterday meeting between De Klerk and Mandela, the president's office issued a statement saying the ANC failed to "appreciate the seriousness of the facts which were brought to light" by police investigations of the alleged communist plot.

Business Day said police had seized records of a communist meeting at which Slovo allegedly said the party would not be bound by any ceasefire between the ANC and the government. The paper said Slovo made the remark two weeks after signing an agreement in May with the government and the ANC to work to end violence.

Survivors found after 11 days

Air escort for relief operations as NPA guerrillas fire at choppers

BAGUIO, July 27, (Agencies): Rescuers recovered two survivors today from the rubble of the Hyatt Hotel 11 days after it collapsed in a devastating earthquake that killed more than 1,600 people, witnesses said.

Rescuers and spectators cheered as Eliza Mallorca was pulled out from the wreckage about 9.50 pm (1250 GMT), witnesses said. The second survivor, Arnold Calavia, was recovered about an hour later.

Both were employees of the state-run Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which operated a gambling casino in the luxury hotel.

They were taken to the US air force clinic at nearby Camp John Hay and were later

transferred to the Baguio general hospital. Doctors said they were suffering from cuts and bruises and severe dehydration but were in surprisingly good condition after their ordeal.

Meanwhile, the air force chief today ordered gunships and rocket-firing planes to escort helicopters carrying supplies to earthquake-stricken villages after communist rebels fired at two of the aircraft.

Maj. Gen. Gerardo Protacio said he issued the order after two military helicopters were shot at by New People's Army guerrillas as the craft were flying over the northern town of Kayapa to deliver relief supplies.



Brunei offers to help US army

JAKARTA, Indonesia, July 27, (AP): The Sultanate of Brunei has joined Singapore in offering to allow the US armed forces to operate from its territory, a senior US official said today.

Singapore and Washington are negotiating an arrangement for increased use of the island's existing military facilities by US warships and planes.

The negotiations with Singapore are continuing at a time of uncertainty over the future of the US military bases on the Philippines, where there is considerable public opposition to renewing the lease for those bases.

US Secretary of State James A. Baker isn't expected to sign any agreement with Singapore during his three-day visit to the country that starts Sunday, said the senior official in the US state department.

"Brunei is also prepared for an enhanced security relationship," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Unlike Singapore, which inherited an array of airfields, dockyards and other military installations from the era of Britain's colonial rule, Brunei has little facilities available.

But with money no object, the oil-rich sultanate on the north coast of Borneo is now expanding its navy with new patrol boats and buying its first fixed-wing combat aircraft, 16 British-built Hawks.

Fortune magazine and the Guinness Book of World Records said Brunei's absolute monarch, Sultan Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah is the world's richest person since the resource of his country are effectively in his name.

Regional security was a top item on the agenda as talks opened between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, and its "dialogue partners" — the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the European Community.

The Philippines, strapped for money after the devastating earthquake, will ask foreign creditors for a 2 1/2-year suspension of debt payments, a key legislator said yesterday.

"We have agreed to negotiate with our foreign creditors and we will push for this 2 1/2-year suspension," said Rep. Margarita Teves, chairman of the House of Representatives' Committee on Economic Affairs and a member of the Foreign Debt Council.

"It is now only a matter of formalising the strategies and the options we will take when we sit down with foreign creditors, be said.

Lawmakers started calling last week for a freeze on payments on the nation's \$26 billion foreign debt, but President Corazon Aquino has been hesitant to take any unilateral steps that could hurt her country's credit.

The Philippines has received a mixed response from foreign creditors to a proposal to suspend debt payments so the country can recover from last week's devastating earthquake, officials said today.

The Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation will forego its prestigious awards for Asia this year and instead donate 1.2 million pesos (\$55,000) to victims of last week's earthquake, it was announced yesterday.

"We share common territorial waters and are aware of smuggling being carried out in both our countries and want to effectively tackle the problem," he said.

Brig Gen. Roxas said the maximum penalty now in the Philippines for drug traffickers was life imprisonment as the death penalty was abolished with the adoption of the country's new constitution in 1987.

He said illicit drug trafficking and smuggling were among the common areas that would be discussed by the Philippines and their Malaysian counterparts.

"We want to classify trafficking in drugs under heinous crimes punishable by death and will make the necessary recommendations to our lawmakers," he added.

"We share common territorial waters and are aware of smuggling being carried out in both our countries and want to effectively tackle the problem," he said.

The ANC has been allied with the South African Communist Party for more than four decades. Slovo

Toxic hazard

A navy commander points to 37 corroded drums of the anhydrous hydrazine rocket fuel in Sangley Naval Base near Manila July 27 which a Philippine senator said pose danger to his capital if it explodes. The navy has agreed to transfer the toxic gas to Iba Caballo Island, a small island at the mouth of Manila Bay, 40 km west of the capital. (Reuters wirephoto)

Burma rulers set guidelines

Power handover

called the new conditions the clearest statement yet of the army's intent to retain power despite the landslide election victory of the opposition National League for Democracy. The May parliamentary poll was Burma's first free vote in 30 years.

A spokesman, Kyaw Sann, said the government will convene a national conference to provide guidelines to the newly-elected Parliament for drafting the new constitution under which the transfer would take place.

He said the government then would hold a national vote on the draft constitution, and "only when the people approve the constitution by the referendum, the (military government) will adopt the same as the national constitution."

The authorities earlier had said the only barrier to transferring power was the drafting of the constitution by the Parliament.

Kyaw Sann warned the government would "take action against any attempt to adopt any interim constitution and government."

A Western diplomat reached in Rangoon from Thailand



HK leaders convicted

A British colonial court on Friday convicted five people of illegally using a megaphone and collecting money in a case critics have called a "show trial" to suppress political activism in Hong Kong.

Critics said the verdict was another example of Britain's bowing to Communists, which takes control of the colony in 1997.

Magistrate Betty Kwan told a packed courtroom that using megaphones during political demonstrations was "not necessary or justified" and fined the five pro-democracy activists the equivalent of about \$20 each.

The defendants, four men and one woman, said they would appeal the verdict. If they lose, they said, they would refuse to pay the fine and risk prison.

"We are fully prepared for the consequences," said defendant Yeung Sum, a professor at Hong Kong University. "Sometimes we have to stand firm for justice."

Above: supporters from a dissident group protest with a loudspeaker outside the court. (Reuters wirephoto)

Gunmen shoot 3 in Manila

MANILA, Philippines, July 27, (AP): Gunmen wearing military fatigues killed the Filipino president of a Singapore construction firm and two companions today during a daylight ambush in the heart of the city.

Separately, a human rights lawyers' group denounced a Supreme Court ruling allowing the military and police to arrest suspected members of rebel organisations without a warrant.

In the Manila shooting, police identified the victims as businessman Carlo Liao, president of Jurong Engineering (Philippines) Inc; his police escort, patrolman 1st class Sergi Aberia, and driver Felix Aguena.

Police Cpl. Rey Cristobal said unknown assailants riding in a car and a jeep cut off Liao's white Mercedes Benz on a commercial street.

At least two of the gunmen jumped from the jeep and sprayed the victims with semi-automatic gun fire at close range, Cristobal said. The victims died at the scene, and their assailants fled in the car and jeep, Cristobal said.

The military Friday reported that a grenade exploded during a village dance Wednesday in the southern Philippines, killing four people and wounding 17 others.

Lt. Col. Ruben Cabaglit, Philippine constabulary provincial commander, said the incident took place in a village on the outskirts of San Fernando town in Bukidnon province, about 880 kilometres (550 miles) southeast of Manila.

Cabaglit said the villagers, all members of the Matisalog tribe, were dancing to celebrate a tribal feast when the explosion took place.

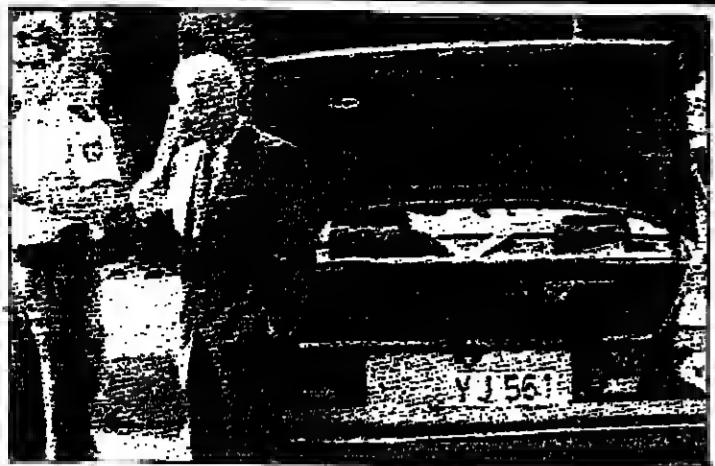
The report did not say whether the grenade was thrown by an unidentified assailant or was accidentally dropped by one of those attending the dance, Cabaglit said.

He said an investigation is being conducted.

The July 9 Supreme Court ruling regarding arrests was made public Wednesday. In the decision, the High Court cited several judicial precedents from the era of the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

Business Day said police had seized records of a communist meeting at which Slovo allegedly said the party would not be bound by any ceasefire between the ANC and the government.

Police said about 40 militants had been arrested recently because of "information about an



62-year-old Hans Neuse, state secretary in the West German Interior Ministry stands close to his damaged car, shortly after a bomb attack by leftist rebel group Red Army Faction (RAF) July 27. Neuse, who was slightly hurt, is in charge



of public security in West Germany. At right a police expert examines the damaged car. (Reuter wirephoto)

Khmer Rouge attacks train

BANGKOK, Thailand, July 27, (AP): Injured survivors said Khmer Rouge guerrillas killed several civilians including women and children in attacking a passenger train in Cambodia, a journalist who interviewed them said today.

An American freelance reporter, Kurt Schork, said he interviewed two dozen survivors in Phnom Penh hospitals a few days after the attack.

The Khmer Rouge has given a different account of the July 15 attack in Kompong Chhnang province just northwest of the national capital Phnom Penh.

According to a text seen Friday, the Khmer Rouge radio said the guerrillas killed 15 Vietnamese soldiers and wounded 15 other soldiers.

The broadcast on Wednesday made no mention of civilian casualties.

The Khmer Rouge is the strongest guerrilla group fighting the government in Phnom Penh. Vietnam invaded the country in late 1978 and installed a new government, ending a nearly four-year Khmer Rouge rule in which hundreds of thousands of people died from execution and starvation.

The Khmer Rouge radio said the guerrillas ambushed and hurried the train because the Vietnamese were using it to send rice to Vietnam.

The guerrillas have said that large number of Vietnamese troops remained after Vietnam announced its total military pullout in September.

According to survivors, Schork said, land mines first crippled the train before the Khmer Rouge struck with grenade launchers and machine-guns. Survivors told Schork that some soldiers aboard the train fled when the fighting began.

Many survivors said Khmer Rouge troops stole jewellery, gold, money and food from passengers, according to Schork. The Hong Kong-based reporter was interviewed in Bangkok.

Schork's photographs showed several civilians in the hospitals who had been wounded in the train attack.

He said Cambodian Defence Minister Gen. Tie Banh told reporters that 53 people were killed and 100 wounded.

According to Schork, Tie Banh said, "What is a pity, they ignored pleas for mercy from civilians."

Claims by the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh government, both communist, are widely regarded with suspicion.

The Khmer Rouge and a guerrilla ally, the forces of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, have substantially increased attacks in Cambodia's interior in recent months.

Government shelling that started Tuesday in Stung and Kompong Svay districts of Kompong Thom province forced villagers to flee to guerrilla bases, the Bangkok office of the Sihanouk group said. The province, which is north of Phnom Penh and borders Kompong Chhnang, has been totally contested.

A few thousand other villagers were forced to leave their homes and follow government troops, said the statement, dated Thursday and received Friday. It said troops set villages on fire and stole cattle and rice.

America ready to initiate talks with Cambodia

US will not tolerate Khmer's 'dialogue of death'

JAKARTA, July 27, (UPI): Secretary of State James Baker said today the United States will not tolerate the "Khmer Rouge's dialogue of death" and refused to alter Washington's withdrawal of diplomatic recognition of the Cambodia resistance coalition.

In his first confrontation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations since announcing the policy shift last week, Baker also rejected ASEAN demands for US agreement to forced repatriation of unwanted Vietnamese boat people — a

policy he said would lead to "inhuman chaos and loss of life."

Baker instead said the United States is willing to join with other nations in a commitment to resettle or return all asylum seekers by the end of 1992 and is accepting a new category of refugees: "Those who do not object."

In a private session with ASEAN foreign ministers, Baker said the Bush administration had to withdraw support for the three-part rebel coalition holding a UN seat in order to win congressional approval for

aid to the two non-communist factions in the coalition.

The third, most powerful faction in the coalition trying to oust the Cambodian government is the communist, Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge. Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978 and in 1979 ousted a Khmer Rouge regime believed responsible for the death of at least one million Cambodians in four years of power. Hanoi then installed the current Cambodian government.

The Cambodian resistance launched its

fight against Phnom Penh. After years of fighting, Vietnam said it withdrew its troops from Cambodia last September, but Cambodian rebel leaders say many Vietnamese troops remain.

Speaking to the ASEAN ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore and Brunei, Baker said Cambodian self-determination through elections must not be pursued without first "preventing the Khmer Rouge from shooting their way back into power."



A radio reporter interviews a competitor (second left) on the third day of the 10th annual international pole-sitting championships in Noordwijkerhout, while other competitors find various ways to prevent muscle cramps. (Reuter wirephoto)

Kremlin warns outlaws

Byelorussia declares sovereignty

MOSCOW, July 27, (Agencies): Military force will be used to restore order in Armenia and other republics if armed groups disobey a new government order to turn in their weapons, Soviet Interior Minister Vadim A. Bakatin said today.

"If any guerrillas do not comply with the decree, we have been entrusted to use force," Bakatin told a news conference. "We hope that reason will prevail."

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev issued a decree on Wednesday giving illegally armed militants 15 days to turn in their weapons or risk having them confiscated by local police, officials of the republics or interior ministry troops.

"If we do not take such measures, we will not be able to control such processes as those under way at present, for example, in Armenia," Bakatin said.

He estimated that 10,000-20,000 Armenians were involved in illegally armed groups, but said other put the figure at 40,000 and as high as 100,000.

Gorbachev's decree encompasses all groups, that threatened people's lives, seized arms, assaulted soldiers or police, or attacked military and civilian facilities.

Besides Armenia, Bakatin said illegally armed groups also operate in the republics of Moldavia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Latvia, Lithuania

and Estonia.

Bakatin said Interior Ministry troops would be sent to republics requesting them, and army troops could go if a state of emergency were declared.

He said many local officials are swept up in the same nationalism as their neighbours and are powerless to stop ethnic fighting.

"If we call a spade a spade, the conflicts mean pure, sheep nationalism," he said.

The commander of Armenian's main outlaw paramilitary group said on Friday he would defy Gorbachev's order to disband in 15 days, and warned of bloodshed if Soviet troops tried to enforce it.

"It is better to die than betray your people," said Razmik Venkilyan, commander of the Armenian National Army (ANA).

The parliament of Byelorussia declared sovereignty today, the latest in a succession of Soviet republics to assert its own identity and challenge Moscow's control.

The vote was unanimous although only 230 of the 350 deputies were in the chamber, the Byelorussian news agency Belta said from Minsk.

The Russian republic and the Ukraine made similar declarations to June and July, while Moldavia and Uzbekistan have declared the supremacy of their own laws over Soviet laws.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuril Island dispute: The Japanese government said Thursday it was not worried about Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's hasty refusal to discuss Japan's claim to the disputed Kuril Islands.

Gorbachev's statement was the banner story in every national Japanese newspaper because it appeared to be a reversal of Moscow's grudging willingness to discuss the 45-year-old territorial dispute between the two nations.

It also could indicate negative fallout from what Japan had touted as a diplomatic victory at the Houston Summit of the seven major industrial democracies.

Waldheim isolation broken: The presidents of Czechoslovakia and West Germany met Kurt Waldheim at a music festival on Thursday, breaking the international diplomatic isolation imposed on the Austrian president because of his wartime past.

But the visits were not without incident.

Before presidents Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia and Richard Von Weizsaecker of West Germany shook hands with Waldheim, American Jewish activists nearby shouted, "Shame for meeting Nazi Waldheim, shame, shame."

Police quickly intervened to quiet the protest.

Schmidt leaves intensive care unit: Former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt, in hospital after suffering heart pains, left the intensive care unit on Friday, doctors said.

But Schmidt, 71, will stay in hospital until at least early next week, when his doctors will decide whether he can be released.

The former Social Democratic chancellor, who led the country from 1974 to 1982, was now reading newspapers again and working on his memoirs, he added.

Schmidt, who was at his vacation home in nearby Brahmsee when he was taken ill on Wednesday, has used a heart pacemaker since 1981.

Kosovo riot death toll 90 not 28: Yugoslav Interior Minister Jovan Vuckovic has told parliament that 90 ethnic Albanians were killed in riots in Kosovo province in January and February, more than three times the official toll of 28.

"Nine Albanians died in demonstrations in January and February when, due to the aggression of demonstrators against citizens and police, police had to use firearms as well," the daily newspaper Bora on Thursday quoted Vuckovic as saying.

It said Vuckovic was speaking in the federal parliament on Wednesday.

Larger numbers attending rally: About 100,000 Serbs rallied Wednesday in Croatia to demand autonomy within Yugoslavia's second-largest republic, the Tanjug news agency and local sources said.

The Serbs gathered in the western Croatian town of Srb to attend a ceremony proclaiming their "sovereignty and autonomy" within that republic, Tanjug and witnesses said.

The declaration said that if Croatia decided to declare its independence of Yugoslavia, the Serbian region within that republic will in turn secede from Croatia.

Nerve gas cache moved: A tightly guarded truck convoy on Thursday began spiritizing away a vast cache of deadly nerve gas secretly stored by the United States near this small West German town for more than 20 years.

West German authorities said someone phoned in a bomb threat against the convoy, but that the transport of the first shipment of nerve gas proceeded without any hitches.

It was the beginning of the end for the United States' sole chemical weapons depot in Europe — an arsenal of 102,000 artillery shells covertly bunkered here since the cold war days as a deterrent against Soviet aggression.

Gorbachev's speech to Congress: Soviet political psychologists who attend the conference — unthinkable before Gorbachev — said realism, tenacity and independence were among the keys to greatness.

"I like Thatcher as a leader. She's professional. If she makes a decision, she goes all out to fulfill," said Vladimir Vassiliev of the Central Council of the Psychological Society.

Vassiliev said Gorbachev was also a true professional, but added, "The public politician that is Gorbachev is far easier to grasp than the inner person. He's a very complicated man."

Expert survives RAF attack

BONN, July 27, (Agencies): The West German government's top terrorism expert survived an assassination attempt in the heart of the capital today when suspected Red Army Faction (RAF) guerrillas detonated a bomb as he drove by.

"They tried to kill me," said Hans Neuse, who was slightly hurt, in charge

given up the use of a personal bodyguard and was driving alone when the blast hit.

A note claiming responsibility for the attack was found near the scene. It bore the familiar star symbol of the RAF but was signed by the "Jose Manuel Sevillano commando." Sevillano was a suspected member of the Spanish leftist guerrilla group, Grapo, who died on hunger strike recently in a Spanish jail.

Police said they had not yet made any arrests in connection with the attack.

At a later news conference a relaxed-looking Neuse said there were links between different leftist groups such as France's Action Directe, the Italian Red Brigades and Grapo, who were working together to form a "West

European guerrilla front."

In the last two months several RAF members have been arrested in East Germany, where the former communist government was alleged to have given them sanctuary. They have been extradited to West Germany to stand trial.

Last week, Schaeuble warned in his annual report on terrorism that more RAF attacks could be expected following the crackdown.

The RAF, a leftist organisation formerly known as the Baader-Meinhof gang, carried out a series of killings and kidnappings of West German politicians and industrialists in the 1970s and early 1980s.



Wolfgang (right) and party whip Schroeder (left) shown prior to the meeting, July 27 (Reuter wirephoto)

Bonn agrees to unified polls

SPD stays in coalition

EAST BERLIN: July 27, (Reuter): East Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) agreed to stay in Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere's ruling coalition on Friday after a deal with Bonn to hold a single pan-German election in December.

SPD leader reaffirmed on Friday they wanted to stick to West Germany's nation-wide five-per-cent hurdle, designed to allow strong government and prevent splinter groups and extremists from entering the Bundestag (parliament).

But De Maiziere and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl have both indicated they favour changing the law to admit parties which win five per cent in any one of the 16 federal states.

Such a change would open the door to the once-mighty East German Communists, the alliance of civil rights groups which led last year's East German democratic uprising and the conservative coalition of the German Social Union (DSU).

Both parliaments are due to be recalled from summer recess on Aug 9 to adopt an identical election law.



The newest Hungry Bunny restaurant in Jabra welcomes its new friends seen in the opening ceremony. Mr. Fathalla Hazzou, Development Manager and Mr. Daajil Ali Mohammad, General Manager of Jabra Co-op. On their right is Mr. Osama Arab, Marketing Manager for Hungry Bunny restaurants.

Jabra Welcomes Hungry Bunny

Hungry Bunny opened its latest outlet in Jabra, announcing simultaneously the on-going operation of its first Hungry Bunny drive-through take-away restaurant.

Conveniently located opposite the Kuwait Bakeries, Hungry Bunny's newest restaurant boasts an attractive garden and a large games area. "We've been looking for the right location in Jabra and we're now delighted to offer Hungry Bunny's menu to Jabra's residents," said Mr. Osama Arab, Marketing Manager of Hungry Bunny restaurants.

Mr. Arab added "we are constantly striving to please our customers, thus maintaining our premier position as Kuwait's No. 1 Hamburger restaurant chain."

What makes a world leader great? Is it charisma or 'the vision thing'

WASHINGTON, July 27, (Reuter): What makes a world leader great?

The experts have been arguing about it for years. Some say it's charisma or, in a phrase coined by US President George Bush, "the vision thing." Others insist it's a learnable skill that has nothing to do with personality.

Whatever it is, Napoleon had it and so did Churchill.

And specialists at the annual meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology think they know what it is.

So might Britain's Margaret Thatcher and Cuban leader Fidel Castro. But West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Bush are unlikely candidates, according to

psychologist interviewed by Reuters.

"The issue of what makes leaders great has zero to do with personality," said Dr. Elliot Jacques, a psychologist who has worked as a consultant for the US Chiefs of Staff, the Church of England and the Australian government.

"There is no such thing as leadership per se," he said.

"But the so-called great leaders through the millennia have a vision of at least 100 years."

Jacques sorts the outstanding leaders from the mediocre by assessing how far ahead their minds operate.

"The greater your competence, the higher your time horizon," said Jacques, noting ordinary mortals may plan only months ahead.

Gorbachev is a leader of Napoleonic stature who will gain still more weight as he ages, according to Jacques. The man who masterminded glasnost and perestroika has at least a 100-year horizon, he said.

World News Roundup

U.S. News

Mrs Quayle had a hysterectomy: The wife of US Vice-President Dan Quayle was released from Bethesda Naval hospital Wednesday, four days after undergoing a hysterectomy, the vice-president's press office said.

It said the operation was performed on Saturday because pap smears indicated Marilyn Quayle had "severe dysplasia," a cell abnormality that experts said can be a precursor to cervical cancer.

"Because of early detection due to the excellent work of the cytologists at the National Naval Medical Centre, Mrs Quayle is expected to have a full and complete recovery," Quayle Press Secretary David Beckwith said in a written statement. (AP)

Congressman reprimanded: The House of Representatives on Thursday reprimanded a repellant Congressman Barney Frank for his official actions on behalf of a male prostitute. Lawmakers first rejected more severe punishments proposed by Republicans.

"I'm here to offer an apology and an explanation," the Massachusetts Democrat told a hushed audience shortly before the 408-18 vote for reprimand. He said he took some of the actions cited by the Ethics Committee "to conceal my homosexuality."

"I should have known better. I do now, but it's a little too late," said subduing Frank, who acknowledged his homosexuality publicly in 1987, a year after the events that led to the house probe. (AP)

Senate denounces: Sen. Dave Durenberger pledged Wednesday to become "first a better man and then a better senator" after his colleagues formally denounced him for receiving money improperly.

He then ordered him to make restitution of up to \$123,000 for money he received improperly.

The judgement marked the 24th time in 20 years that the Senate disciplined one of its own. The vote was 96-0, and after rendering their verdict many Senators lined up to shake Durenberger's hand, some embracing him. (AP)

Judge dismisses juror: A judge in a drug money-laundering trial dismissed a juror on Thursday after learning that the man had tried to phone Colombian drug dealers listed in an address book admitted as evidence.

US District Judge William Hodges denied a defense motion for a mistrial and ordered jury deliberations to continue with 11 jurors. (Reuters)

Generous Castro: Cuban President Fidel Castro's offer to allow Cubans to leave their country may result in a migration to the United States that could dwarf the 1980 Mariel boatlift, Cuban-Americans and experts said.

Castro, in a speech at a mass rally in Havana on Thursday, challenged the United States and Western Europe to issue entry visa to Cubans, saying his government would allow any of its citizens to freely leave the island.

A decade ago some 120,000 Cubans rushed to Florida from the port of Mariel when Castro finally relaxed his emigration controls. (Reuters)

Aids screening: Many hospitals should routinely offer Aids tests to all patients, especially in poor city neighbourhoods, because so many people are unknowingly infected with the Aids virus, a government study recommends.

The chief author of the report said Aids screening should become as common a part of hospital care as testing for heart disease and glaucoma.

"There is a large number of infected persons who are unaware of their status," said Dr Michael E. St Louis. "Hospitals may be an efficient place where they could potentially get plugged into an appropriate programmatic of treatment or counseling." (AP)

Raid turns up illegal turtles: A search for drugs on a Korean tanker revealed stuffed sea turtles belonging to an endangered species and about five tons of coral from protected Philippine reefs.

"This is unique. We've never seen this amount of coral before," said Rick Ellison, chief of US customs inspectors for the San Francisco Waterfront.

Importation of the items violates federal and international laws prohibiting transporting and possessing endangered or protected wildlife. (AP)

Highest Co₂ emissions: Several US states are among the world's biggest sources of carbon-dioxide emissions, an environmental group said Thursday.

The 10 states with the highest emission account for half the total carbon dioxide put into the air in the United States, the natural Resources Defense Council said. (AP)

Summit on kids: President George Bush will attend a 35-country United Nations "World summit for children" in New York on



Hazelwood hearing

Former Exxon Valdez skipper Joseph Hazelwood (right) could be back in command of a ship in nine months under a penalty imposed by the coast guard for that nation's worst oil spill.

Hazelwood, in an interview, said he was satisfied with the coast guard's decision to dismiss misconduct and negligence charges against him and decided to let him resume his career.

At a coast guard hearing Wednesday, administrative law Judge Harry Gardner suspended Hazelwood's captain's license for nine months and put him on probation for three more months.

Disabled Americans

Bush signs anti-bias bill

WASHINGTON: July 27, (AP): As several thousand advocates for the disabled looked on, President George Bush yesterday signed an act banning discrimination against the nation's 43 million handicapped people.

"Every man, woman and child with a disability can now pass through a once-closed door to a bright new era of equality, independence and freedom," Bush said as he signed the measure in a White House ceremony.

The president likened the Americans with disabilities act of 1990 to the dismantling of the Berlin Wall as a symbol of freedom for a once-oppressed people. It "takes a sledgehammer to another wall," he said.

The bill prohibits discrimination against the disabled in employment, public accommodations, transportation and telecommunications, and defines as disabled anyone who has a mental or physical impairment limiting "some major life function."

The disabilities bill, like other major civil rights legislation, includes a variety of sanctions for violators, including those who discriminate in hiring. It allows victims of employment discrimination to seek back pay, reinstatement and attorneys fees.

However, the law exempts business with fewer than 5 employees from the hiring provisions.

The measure includes new protection for AIDS-infected workers.



Deputy assassinated

Unidentified assailants shot and killed a Guatemalan congressional deputy and his travel companion on a country road, less than four months before general elections in the Central American country, police said on Wednesday.

Otto Rolando Ruano, a deputy for the National Centre Union Party, was found dead with a companion early on Wednesday in a car parked on a highway roadside southeast of the capital, a police spokesman said. Both victims were riddled with bullets.

Police spokesman Ursuano Puenas was unable to provide further details on how the men were killed. He said there were no immediate suspects.

Above: Edna Orellana dal Ruano, wife of slain congressional representative Otto Rolando Ruano, cries over the flag draped casket of her husband July 26 during the funeral of Jatapa.

Sept. 30, the White House announced Wednesday.

The following day, he will deliver his annual address to the UN General Assembly, White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney of Canada and Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan will chair the summit meetings. (Kuna)

Historians meet: The Soviet Union and the United States should open their records to historians world-wide, said historians who met for five days to discuss the cold war.

Allen Weinstein, head of the US delegation and a University of Boston history professor, reported at a press conference Wednesday that the Supreme Soviet is working on a law resembling the US Freedom of Information Act. The act which requires some government documents to be made publicly available upon request. (AP)

Patriarch in Boston: Patriarch Dimitrios, spiritual leader of the world's Eastern Orthodox Christians, joined Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis on Thursday in celebrating their common Greek heritage and religion.

"We've arrived finally ... in Massachusetts, whereby the grace of God a beloved countryman has served as governor," said the 75-year-old patriarch upon arriving at the state Capitol.

Dimitrios, capping a 27-day visit to the United States, the first by an Eastern Orthodox patriarch, was greeted with roaring applause from church members, including Dukakis and other state officials. Many, including Dukakis, kissed his ring or touched the sleeve of his black robe. (AP)

Editorial

Queen wins injunction: Queen Elizabeth won a high court injunction on Friday banning publication of a book which gives intimate details of life in the royal household.

The attorney-general, acting for the queen, won the injunction ordering the author not to publish in Britain.

Excerpts of the book have been published in the French magazine *Paris Match* but were torn out of its British edition after the queen's lawyers sought an injunction banning publication in Britain, a spokesman for the magazine said. (Reuters)

Rabbis urge Thatcher: Jewish religious groups in the British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Finchley constituency, north London, are calling on her to intervene with US President George Bush over the case of Jonathan Pollard who was caught spying for

Israel, according to a report on Friday.

The Jewish Chronicle newspaper reported that Rabbis have asked Thatcher to pass on "the deep concern felt by the Jewish people everywhere" about the sentence against the US navy intelligence analyst, who is imprisoned for life in a top security jail in the US. (Kuna)

Commons in recess: The British House of Commons began its long summer recess Thursday afternoon, ending a year which has seen a dramatic slide in the fortunes of the ruling Conservative Party.

Observers noted that UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has had to contend with the loss of several senior cabinet ministers, as well as facing strong criticism of her style of leadership.

Meanwhile, the opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock has looked for the first time like a truly electable leader, with his party consistently ahead in the opinion polls. (Kuna)

Explorer awarded damages: Explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes was awarded 100,000 pounds (\$181,000) in libel damages Wednesday for an article in the Canadian magazine *Maclean's* which said his exploits had achieved nothing of historical or scientific value.

A high court jury in London took only 40 minutes to decide that Fiennes was justified in complaining that an article in the magazine was "nasty, mean-minded and spiteful." He had asked the jury to "nail the lie" that his expeditionary efforts were valueless. (AP)

Fire rages on: Five forest fires raged across eastern Spain and other regions Thursday, destroying thousands of hectares of woodland but causing no injuries, agriculture officials said.

In the eastern province of Alicante, a fire blamed on arsonists blazed a 30-kilometres (18.6-mile) path on its western front, according to Agriculture Ministry officials.

The officials said the blaze was unlikely to be brought under control for several days. (AP)

Greek forest fire: A forest fire Friday raged out of control on Samos forcing authorities to cut power and most of the island's telecommunications as a precautionary measure.

It was the second major wildfire on the resort island in the eastern Aegean off the coast of Turkey within ten days.

Authorities said they were unable to immediately estimate how many acres (hectares) of forest were destroyed by the fire, fanned by strong, dry northerly winds. (AP)

Anti-Mafia report: More than 200 people linked to the southern Italian Mafia were elected to serve on regional and city councils last May, according to an official report.

But the parliamentary anti-Mafia commission report said local councillors in Calabria and the Naples area persistently denied the role of organised crime in violence and corruption, despite cases that had been proven in court. (Reuters)

Kouchner criticises: French Aid Minister Bernard Kouchner said on Wednesday revelations by a former spy chief that Paris infiltrated intelligence agents into Poland under humanitarian cover in 1982 would endanger work.

"What he said was scandalous. That the secret services do this work is something I do not know about."

"But that he should talk about it endangers relief teams in the field," Kouchner told Reuters. (Reuters)

French govt warns: The French government warned Wednesday of severe crop damage unless fresh rain breaks a widespread drought that has forced scores of towns to restrict water consumption and a nuclear power plant to shut down.

River levels in some areas has dropped as much as 50 per cent below normal, and many communities have been forced to ban lawn watering, car washing and other uses of water. (AP)

Spain requests extradition: The Spanish government has requested from Switzerland the extradition of the charge d'affaires of the state of Sao Tome and Principe to the United Nations in Geneva, Francisco Paesa Sanchez, accused of collaborating with a terrorist group responsible for the assassination of numerous Basque militants.

The Swiss News Agency (ATS) reported Thursday, however, that Swiss authorities had not yet received an official request from the Spanish government. (Kuna)

Norway cancels: Norway on Thursday cancelled an expulsion order against a Greenpeace boat after deciding local police had over-reacted to a protest at a paper mill.

The Beluga research vessel, ordered to leave Norwegian waters on Wednesday following the protest at the Sande Paper Mill in southern Norway, cruised the Oslo fjord on Thursday with a group of politicians and reporters. (Reuters)

UK army short of bullets: The British army has run short of bullets for submachine-guns and scaled down target practice until new stocks arrive, according to the Defence Ministry.

But a spokesman insisted on Friday that the "operational effectiveness of the army is not affected" by the shortage, caused when a batch of ammunition was withdrawn after reaching the end of its life. (Reuters)

Petition Pope John: An animal rights activist posted a petition Wednesday in St Peter's Square calling on Pope John Paul II to declare that animals have immortal souls.

Security guards quickly took down the statement and dispersed protesters.

John Stockwell, a 55-year-old geologist and school teacher from California, compared his initiative to that of Martin Luther, the Protestant reformer who posted his historic 95 theses on the door of a castle church in Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517. (AP)

Santa Clauses convention: Santa Clauses, 62 of them, came to town on a hot sunny summer afternoon in Copenhagen.

They had lunch and swapped Christmas stories, and kept their beards and red suits on 23-degree (73 degrees Fahrenheit) warmth on the day Wednesday.

Puzzled? This is Denmark, a land of fairy tales where the magical side of life is never far from mind. Where else would you hold the 27th Santa Claus World Congress, with delegates from the Soviet Union and half a dozen European countries? (AP)

Fournarie, economist dies: Jean Fournarie, an economist who helped design the reconstruction of postwar France, has died in South-central France at age 83, his colleagues announced Friday.

A statement from the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, which Fournarie once headed, gave no details about the death, which occurred Wednesday in the Lot region. (AP)



Jagger performs

Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones performs during their concert in Rome on July 25. (Reuters wirephoto)

7-1/2 hours after brain dead

Man startles medical team

DES MOINES: Iowa, July 27, (AP): A shooting victim declared dead for hours suddenly showed signs of life as medical technicians were preparing his body to remove organs for transplants.

He died Wednesday, nearly 15 hours later.

"This is the first time I've seen one respond like this, and I've been at this for 30 some years," said Black Hawk county medical examiner Albert Dolan.

He said a medical team that hoped to take organs for transplant from the body of James Albert Geiger of Waterloo stood aside Tuesday.

Geiger was declared brain dead early Tuesday.

Doctors got permission from Geiger's family to take the organs for transplants. But a bout 7-1/2 hours later Geiger was pronounced dead. A cardiologist who was there to maintain Geiger's blood pressure was startled by an arm movement that would not happen if the patient were dead.

The reason: no one in the family could find the son's passport.

"We do not have the passport despite an intensive search, and without it Christian Geiger cannot be released," Pamela Wells, a legal assistant to Geiger's lawyer, Robert Shapiro, said. (Reuters)

US aid not enough: Former Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega said on Thursday the United States was not giving Nicaragua the economic assistance it needed while Cuba was willing to keep helping its former left-wing ally.

Ortega told a news conference in Havana that Cuba was the first country to respond to a Nicaraguan appeal for emergency aid to help the thousands of flood victims in northeast Nicaragua. (Reuters)

New foreign minister: Paraguayan President Andries Rodriguez on Thursday appointed a new foreign minister to replace the man he fired for sparking a political row with opposition parties.

Rodriguez named Alexis Frutos Vaezen, who held the justice and labour portfolio, as new foreign minister. Frutos Vaezen was replaced by Hugo Estigarribia, formerly deputy interior minister, a presidential spokesman said. (Reuters)

Kidnapper arrested: One of the abductors of Scott Heimdal, the American gold miner who was kidnapped in Ecuador's jungle on April 28 and freed after 61 days in captivity, has been arrested, police said Wednesday.

They identified him as a member of a Colombian guerrilla group who lived in a neighbouring Ecuador and said he was tied with a Colombian drug trafficker who was freed from prison by a guerrilla attack. (AP)

Salvador peace talks: Salvadoran government and guerrilla negotiators had ended a week of talks still at odds over the armed forces but encouraged by a human rights accord.

The two sides agreed Thursday on a United Nations role to

Israel can retaliate with chemical weapons: minister

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 27. (AP): In an escalation of Middle East war rhetoric, Science Minister Yitzhak Neeman said today that Israel could respond with its own chemical weapons if it came under attack with such arms from Iraq.

It was the most far-reaching statement by an Israeli leader on the subject. Israel is widely believed to have chemical weapons, but officials have never admitted it. Defence Ministry spokesman Danny Naveh refused comment on Neeman's remarks.

Neeman's warning was the latest in a "war of words" started by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein when he said

in April he would torch half of Israel with binary chemical weapons if attacked with nuclear arms by the Jewish state.

In the past week, Israeli officials have sharpened their rhetoric in response to Saddam, with Defence Minister Moshe Arens saying Iraq's threats have increased the likelihood of war.

Some Israeli newspaper editorials and analysis said Arabs and others apparently were trying to rally US support at a time when Congress is debating wide-ranging cuts in military spending that could affect Israel.

Neeman, a member of the ultra-rightist Tehiya Party, said in an interview with

Israel radio today that Israel was ready to counter Iraqi threats.

"In my opinion, we have an excellent response, and that is to threaten (Saddam) Hussein with the same merchandise," said Neeman, who also is head of Israel's space programme.

Neeman said any advanced nation has the capability to manufacture chemical weapons.

"And if there is an enemy like this, it is possible to prepare a suitable response," Neeman said. "I have no doubt that also today we can respond to a threat like this."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir

apparently was displeased by Neeman's remarks. A source in Shamir's office said the prime minister would meet with Neeman to discuss the radio interview.

The 65-year-old Neeman has served in the past both as deputy director of army intelligence and scientific director of Israel's atomic energy programme.

Reached by telephone after the radio broadcast, Neeman did not deny he meant Israel had chemical weapons. When asked directly if the country possessed such arms, he replied: "That's a question for the minister of defence."

Another threat against Iraq came from Eliyahu Ben Elissar, head of

parliament's Defence and Foreign Affairs Committee, who said in a speech last night that Israel would retaliate harshly if attacked by Iraq.

Both Neeman and Ben Elissar came under sharp criticism from Elazar Granit, head of the socialist Mapam Party who said their words were as irresponsible as those of radical Arab leaders.

Despite the talks of war, the top official of the Pentagon, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell, said after touring the region this month that he believed there was little danger the rhetoric would lead to a conflict.

Algerian cabinet reshuffle

Defence created

ALGIERS, July 27. (Reuters): President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria appointed a minister of defence for the first time since independence in 1962 and made changes in seven other ministries on Wednesday, the official news agency APS said.

The minister of defence is Major-General Khaled Nezzar, who was named chief of staff of the armed forces two months after the riots which swept Algeria in October 1988.

Successive Algerian heads of state have kept the defence portfolio to themselves and there was no immediate explanation for Chadli's decision to break with tradition.

APS noted that under the constitution the head of state was the commander-in-chief of the armed forces and the man responsible for overall military strategy.

The senior military official below Chadli was previously General Mustafa Chellouli, who bore the title secretary-general at the Ministry of Defence and who has been called to other functions, APS said.

"

The finance minister tries to put his hands on any kind of government expenditure he could afford politically," Hebrew university economist Haim Barkai said today. "It seems he succeeded in doing it with these cuts in subsidies."

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State to pay high prices for local wheat

Step to encourage farmers

HEAD of the General Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, Sheikh Ibrahim Duaij Al Ibrahim Al Sabah has said that the authority will buy locally produced wheat at double the international price for the second season upon initiatives from HH the Amir.

Interviewed by Kuna, Sheikh Ibrahim said that the authority will buy wheat at the same prices of last season despite the

decline of prices internationally. He added that such a step will be taken in order to encourage wheat farmers in Kuwait.

Sheikh Ibrahim pointed out that a report prepared by Kuwait Mills and Bakeries Company on Kuwaiti wheat specifications was encouraging. He added that bread produced from local wheat tasted better as compared with other imported

products. The average rate of wheat production for each planted dunum was 209.7 kilogrammes.

Publications

He indicated that the authority had purchased modified seedlings fit for the local environment for the next season. The authority has also provided farmers with the necessary fertilisers.

The authority is keen to have a good wheat season and it has prepared several publications for farmers which include ideal methods for agriculture. Several guidance symposiums have been held in agricultural areas aimed at improving wheat production.

In the 1988/89 season a total of 239 farms with a total area of 5,216.5 dunums were planted with wheat.

Sheep deaths

Inadequate ventilation main cause, says report

NEW ZEALAND, July 27, (AP): Agriculture Ministry officials in Wellington yesterday cited inadequate ventilation as the main reason for the deaths of almost 10,000 sheep shipped to Saudi Arabia last month.

Veterinarian Garth Pannett and livestock officer Rob Clements were aboard the fully enclosed "Cormo Express" at the time. Their report said all sheep they checked had higher-than-normal body temperatures, with many well past the point at which death was regarded as inevitable.

The report to Agriculture Minister Jim Sutton said sheep on some decks were almost frantic as they tried to get near air vents when night temperatures hit 35 Celsius (95 Fahrenheit) and humidity 97 percent.

It said the heat problems began soon after the Cormo Express entered the Gulf of Aden, 22 days after leaving New Zealand's South Island with 81,261 live sheep.

Within three days, 4,780 sheep had died, most from heat stress, others from suffocation.

The 12 per cent death rate was the highest recorded for the New Zealand live-sheep export trade.

An inquiry committee which includes representatives from the ministry, the Live Sheep Export Trade, the Federated Farmers, the Veterinary Association and Animal-Welfare Group, has received the report and is expected to issue recommendations within the next couple of days.



KD 31.8m contract signed

Public Works Minister Jassam Mohammed Al Mousa Thursday signed a KD 31.8 million contract with a local firm to expand and upgrade the sewage treatment station at Al Ardhiya.

The first phase of the 40-month project is due to start in September.

Minister Mousa told Kuna that the project will help increase the station's absorption capacity of sewage water and also eliminate the disturbing smells.

He noted that the smells result from operating the station above its maximum capacity, but predicted that this problem will be resolved by the end of the first stage, two years after the starting date.

Mousa said that the station's sewage water capacity will be increased from 70,000 cubic metres to 250,000 cubic metres until the year 2005.

The minister added that the project also includes the expansion of the central electronic monitoring system, as well as the construction of a new adminis-

tration building, labs and a high-tech training centre over 3,000 square metres of land.

He said that the operation will continue throughout the execution of the project.

He affirmed that treated sewage water can be used for irrigation without causing any harm to man.

Mousa previously signed a contract valued at KD2.5 million for works to develop and landscape pavements used by pedestrians in Farwaniya and Jahra governorates. The project is to be completed within 730 days and includes construction and maintenance of pavements with coloured bricks on main roads and around public establishments. Special facilities for handicapped persons have been specifically designed and incorporated in the contract.

On the other hand, minister Mousa signed a contract for similar works and projects at Ahmadi Governorate. The contract is valued KD2 million and is to be completed in 730 days.

The minister added that the project also includes the expansion of the central electronic monitoring system, as well as the construction of a new adminis-



Transportation by vanette

Drivers request GTD to make it legal again

KUWAIT is considered one of the advanced countries in the field of providing transportation to residents. Kuwait Public Transportation Company has provided buses to all areas at scheduled times and with enough buses to transport citizens. In addition to public state transportation other transportation facilities like taxis and taxi offices are available. Another transportation facility which has no specific path and is considered better for many citizens are pick-up trucks known as "vanettes." With the high number of pick-ups and the rising number of complaints from taxi offices and taxi cabs, the General Traffic Department issued several laws to prevent the use of "vanettes."

A local daily interviewed a number of vanette owners to highlight their opinions and the reason behind their insistence in transporting passengers even though it is illegal.

Gholam Ali stated that he had never heard about any laws issued by the General Traffic Department preventing pick-up drivers from transferring passengers.

He said that he cannot read, and that is probably the reason he has no idea about such laws. He indicated that he works as a construction worker and after finishing this job he uses his pick-up to transfer passengers for money. He said that he works for six to seven hours daily on the vanette with an average daily income of KD 4.5. He indicated that sometimes of his construction job tires him out so he doesn't ferry passengers every day. He called on the General Traffic Department to reconsider the law and to permit them to work with their pick-up trucks so that they can make ends meet.

Honest living

Maaroof Ahmad said that he works at a government ministry with a small salary. He is a father of a number of children who receive education at private schools in addition to the house rent at KD 100 and living expenses. He indicated that the decision taken by the traffic department is harmful to him because he works on a vanette to earn an honest living. He said that other legal transportation to pick-up their vehicles.

facilities available in the country are restricted to specific routes. On the other hand, vanettes have no limited routes and are capable of giving passengers a ride to the place they want. He said that he gains a daily income of KD 8-10 by working evening hours even though there are a large number of taxis and taxi offices which could transport passengers at cheaper rates.

Khamees Hamed Al Omari, a retired Kuwaiti citizen said that he has been working on his vanette for a year now.

The new law does not allow working on vanettes for personal purposes and he called upon the General Traffic Department to prevent anyone working without a permit. He stated that the law preventing retired Kuwaiti citizens at the age of 60 driving pick-up trucks is unfair.

Abdul Razzaq Rasheed said that it has become very difficult to resolve "vanettes" in Kuwait for many reasons, most important is that it will cause embarrassment to people. He pointed out that strict laws and measures should be applied on violators in order to avoid this phenomenon.

Misae Al Khatrash said that most societies suffer from the "vanette" problems. He did not consider the phenomenon to be a problem due to the small size of the society.

Correction

THE name which appeared under the photograph that accompanied the article "More Kuwaitis marrying Filipinas" in the Thursday/Friday edition of the Arab Times on Page 9 was incorrect. The gentleman pictured is Hisham Abu Horjil, an Egyptian, and not Hisham Abu Ajeeb. We regret any inconvenience our error may have caused.

Weather

HOT summer weather with moderate northerly wind may freshen at times. State of sea: Moderate. High water: 3:56 am, 3:54 pm. Low water: 10:11 am, 10:15 pm. Sunrise: 5:06 am. Sunset: 6:43 pm. Maximum temperature recorded: Kuwait: 30°C 127°F. Ahmadi: 46°C 115°F. Failaka: 32°C 111°F. Maximum temperature expected: Kuwait: 30°C 127°F. Ahmadi: 46°C 115°F. Failaka: 48°C 117°F. Minimum temperatures recorded: Kuwait: 31°C 88°F. Ahmadi: 36°C 97°F. Failaka: 32°C 90°F. Maximum humidity recorded: Kuwait: 95 percent. Ahmadi: 90 percent. Failaka: 25 percent.

Standard measures and specifications in GCC

Information centre soon

LEADERS of the GCC states have comprehended the importance of co-ordinating efforts in supporting their economic interests as unification of standards and measures among GCC states is essential to facilitate commercial exchange.

Plan

A decision issued in Bahrain Nov 9, 1982 approved the transformation of the Saudi Specifications and Measures Authority to a Gulf authority. The new authority specialises in specifications and measures for GCC states. The Commercial Co-operation Committee in its meeting in Bahrain dated Oct 10, 1983 believed that such a transformation should be carried out gradually. The GCC states' Specifications and Measures Authority was thus established on July 17, 1984 and empowered to formulate specifications and measures in GCC states. One of its duties is to approve and publish Gulf measures and specifications in addition to implementing measures via concerned authorities at each of the member states.

Library

The authority library includes 6,500 references and more than

200,000 international specifications in addition to more than 750 microfilm videos attached with international specifications in English. Such video tapes are updated on a monthly basis for research purposes.

The information centre at the authority is also provided with advanced computers to store information and prepare computer programmes for authority works and activities.

Spreading awareness on measures is considered to be one of the main duties of the authority. The authority established a special information channel represented by the Measures and Specifications magazine.

The authority depends on laboratories in conducting experiments and analyses linked with Gulf measures and specifications.

The authority is keen to upgrade the level of national staff. So far, nine training courses were held since the authority's establishment. Such courses covered various fields aimed at improving performance among employees on different fields.

Best tailors, prices available in Kuwait

Dishdashas

DISHDASHAS are the national costumes in Kuwait and the GCC countries and to highlight the various stages of manufacture, outlets of sales, price ranges and quality, a local daily interviewed a number of tailors, fabric shop owners and purchasers.

Sayed Jasem Al Mousawi, a tailor who has been in the profession for the past 35 years said that he has six other tailors at the shop who are paid on a monthly basis, in addition to others who are employed on daily wages.

He indicated that the beginning of summer and winter witness the highest turnover in sales of dishdashas. In the interim, sales are very low as there is an exodus of people. He indicated that during the high season, the shop makes a monthly profit of KD1,500. Tailoring a dishdashas costs KD3 each — including labour.

He disclosed that other GCC residents come to Kuwait to have their dishdashas tailored as Kuwait has the lowest prices with highly skilled tailors.

Demand

Mousawi pointed out that his shop tailors more summer dishdashas than the winter style. The Swiss-type fabric is in high demand by customers because they are most comfortable and don't stick to the body. On the rise of dishdashas prices, he said that rents, tailors' wages and materials have increased in price and reflected on the price of dishdashas.

Ali Ghoblam Ali, the owner of a tailor shop in Sharq said that he has been in this profession for 18 years. He has a total of nine tailors at the shop all receiving monthly salaries.

During Eid and other occasions, Ali's shop produce an estimated 120 dishdashas daily. The tailoring fees start from KD four to five. In general, Ali indicated that tailoring prices in Kuwait are adequate and not expensive like people say.

On the other hand, one fabric merchant, said that fabrics vary in prices according to quality. Some types of fabrics are sold at 500 fils per metre and other types KD2 per metre. He added that the Japanese made fabric are the most common among customers.

The highest sales season for fabrics begins early summer and during occasions and Eid. He pointed out that the fabric trade is not as lucrative as it was in the past due to the large number of fabric shops in the country.

Abdul Wahab Husain, a consumer said that he wears out nine dishdashas during summer. He added that dishdashas prices have increased due to the fact that merchants link their trade to the rates of the yen and dollar. He hoped that the government will establish a national dishdashas tailoring factory. He pointed out that such a factory will fight expensive tailoring and will help consumers.

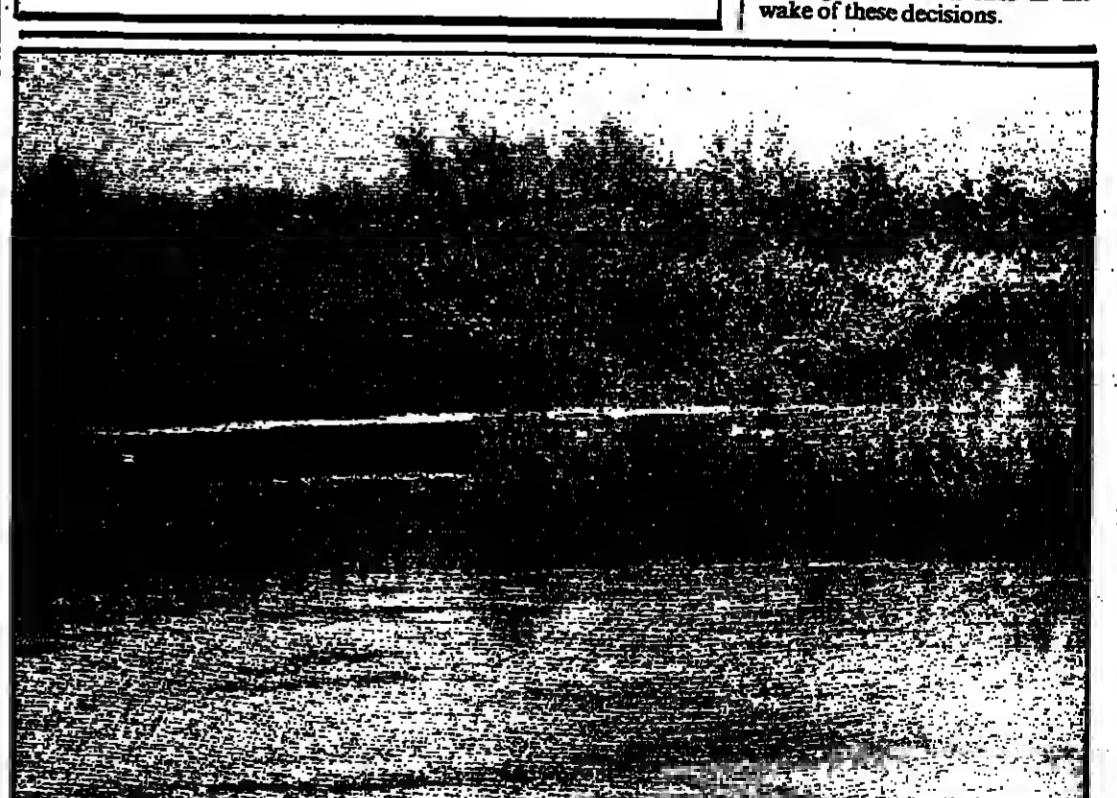
On the other hand, the official confirmed that the Kuwaiti stock market is distinguished and as a pioneer on the Arab level.

He clarified that it would be unfair to compare the performance of the Kuwaiti stock market with its counterparts in the advanced countries.

However, he confirmed that the Kuwaiti market after the re-organisation process in 1983 is currently keeping abreast with economic development in Kuwait and the region.

Otaibi clarified that the second half of the 1970s and the beginning of the last decade has witnessed heightened activity and attributed this to the rise in oil prices which eventually led to an increase in government expenditure.

On the other hand, the official confirmed that government decisions adopted in December 1989 for reactivation of the country's national economy had positively affected the stock market as the bourse had witnessed significant activities in the wake of these decisions.

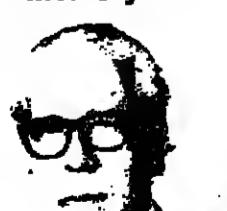


Migrant relief

The presence of natural reserves on Kuwaiti soil has been a source of relief to migrant flocks of birds which migrate to Kuwait, and take refuge from the biting cold of Europe and the drought of Arab desert.

In Jahra, along the Gulf coastline, the Environmental Protection Council Ibrahim Hadi said that the council set up these reserves in co-operation with the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources to be the resting station for migrant birds and provide refuge for migrant flocks of birds. Seyassah cameraman toured the natural reserves

1st Death Anniversary
In everlasting
memory of



Joslyn Rosario Pinto

Born: 13-7-1919
Died: 28-7-1989

You will be forever
remembered in our
sorrowing hearts...

A tribute of love from wife
Alice, children — Molly/Naren,
Clement/Jesse, Sabena/Tony,
Midred/Vincent and
grandchildren.

Belated requiem mass will be
held on Friday, 12 October '90
at 8.00 am in the Holy Family
Church, Kuwait.

Garbage recycling plant to protect environment

Project to cost KD8 million

THE chairman and managing director of the Organic Fertilisers Company Dr Waddad Al Suwaib has said that basic aim of establishing the company is to protect the local environment from pollution by getting rid of remains and using them after being treated. He added that the company is now studying offers of international contractors to select the best one to build a plant for producing organic fertilisers. He added that the project will cost about KD8 million and is expected to be completed within 30 months. He also expected that the plant will start production in the middle of 1992.

Dr Suwaib pointed out that the company in co-operation with the mun-

icipality will receive and run sites used to bury remains. The company will sort out the remains and garbage in these sites collected from houses and commercial areas as well as light industries in order to get them treated at the plant. He added that sorting out of these remains will enable the state to benefit from glass, paper and cartons besides other organic materials which will be converted to fertilisers.

Production

He added that plant production will reach about 600 tons a day after a short period of operation. This quantity will be produced from about 2,100 tons of remains treated everyday at the plant. He added that all of the production of fertil-

isers will be given to Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources to be buried about 2,100 tons of remains a day. He added that the plant will need large quantities of water. The company plans to use treated sewage water in manufacturing works in co-operation with the Ministry of Public Works. He added that the only serious problem that faces the company is that some cleaning companies do not send the collected remains to places specialised and determined by the municipality.

Dr Suwaib pointed out that the size of the remains will reduce gradually with about a quarter of the present collected quantity. Treating remains will save the land used to bury them beside reducing costs of burying which reach three dinars

per ton. He added that the municipality buries about 2,100 tons of remains a day. He added that the plant will need large quantities of water. The company plans to use treated sewage water in manufacturing works in co-operation with the Ministry of Public Works. He added that the only serious problem that faces the company is that some cleaning companies do not send the collected remains to places specialised and determined by the municipality.

Profits

A large quantity of these remains do not reach these places because companies prefer to bury them in close sites to get prompt profits from some sources that are not authorised to use the remains.

He added that some workers at these companies take out some of these remains before it reaches sites. He called to assume strict punishment against these people. Relevant authorities should also have an informational campaign to enlighten people about harms of taking out some remains from containers.

Dr Suwaib pointed out that the best method to benefit from remains and reduce costs is provide bags for food remains and others for papers and other materials in homes. This means that people in their houses can sort out the remains. This method is being carried out in many advanced countries and can be applied in Kuwait in future, he said.

Opec

(Continued from Page 1)

prices at the pump — would not automatically climb just because Opec notched up its benchmark. But if the Opec reined in production, crude prices could rise.

In the United States, for example, energy experts said consumers will also probably see a jump in prices of gasoline and heating oil, but they said it was not likely to occur right away.

"We have a crude oil surplus currently of 50 million barrels (in the United States) ... and it's going to take at least a year to work off that excess," said Brian Tager, an energy broker with Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc.

The average price of a basket of crudes monitored by Opec surged to \$30.46 a barrel in early January but skidded to \$13.64 last month. It rebounded to \$16.25 last week.

An output cap of 22.5 million barrels a day would be 400,000 barrels more than the current ceiling. But it would be under the actual production estimated at 23 million barrels or more a day.

Under the plan, the UAE's

quota will rise from 1.1 million barrels a day to 1.5 million. It now is producing about 2 million barrels a day, analysts say.

Opec oil ministers agreed today to set up two groups to make sure that all 13 members stick to their production quotas and thus keep prices firm by not swamping the market.

The watchdog groups, according to a new price and production accord, comprise seven and six members respectively.

Named to the first group were comprise Algeria, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iraq, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Members of the second group were Gabon, Iran, Kuwait, Libya, Qatar and Venezuela.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said today key oil producers should cooperate to drive the price of crude to \$30 a barrel.

"Let the Soviets co-operate with a few Opec countries — we are ready, so are the Iraqis, Libyans and Algerians — and say 'we will not sell oil at less than \$30.'

Quotas allocated

Algeria, 827,000; Ecuador 273,000; Gabon 197,000; Indonesia 1,374,000; Iran 3,140,000; Iraq 3,140,000; Kuwait 1,500,000; Libya 1,233,000; Nigeria 1,611,000; Qatar 371,000; Saudi Arabia 5,380,000; United Arab Emirates 1,500,000; Venezuela 1,945,000. Total 22,491,000.

Bronze medal for Kuwait

KUWAIT won the bronze medal in the 31st International Maths Olympiad held in Beijing, China.

The Ministry of Education, through the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences had sent four Kuwaiti students from the secondary stage to participate.

Abdul-Rahman Abdulla Ali Mohammadi from the Salem Al Mubarak Secondary School was awarded the bronze medal which was registered in the name of the State of Kuwait.

A total of 54 countries, including five from Arab world, participated in the Olympiad.

Kuwait

regard.

Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki, said today he expected a quick reconciliation between the Gulf neighbours.

"I believe that the next few days will witness more of a settlement between the two and matters will advance to a normal situation," Sedki said on arrival in Amman for regular talks with his Jordanian counterpart Mudar Badran.

Arab world media today expressed satisfaction over the Kuwait-Iraqi meeting saying that such a meeting would encourage resolving the Iraqi dispute with Kuwait and the UAE.

"The matter is merely a passing summer cloud," said the Qatari newspaper Ar-Raya. "Kuwaiti-Iraqi

I'M a Filipino. I'm writing on behalf of a compatriot who took grocery worth KD65 from a company with an agreement in pay it back on monthly instalments. Due to some problems, he failed to pay for almost three months and asked to pay half the sum. They did not agree and said he owed KD67, including interest. My friend could not borrow the money. By this time, the debt became KD188. The owner's wife said if he paid KD30, they would reduce the balance to KD60. So, last month he gave KD30. To his surprise, they sent him a notice. He talked to them again, and they said if he paid KD50 monthly, they will stop sending notices.

Is there a law allowing a big interest on those who fail to pay their debts on time? Can we do something about it? Not only my friend, but other Filipinos are also victims of that company.

Please advise him.

Name and address supplied.

LEGALLY, the interest for any loan according to commercial law is not more than seven per cent per year. For banks and others establishments, it does not exceed 10 per cent. If the shopkeeper is asking for more than this amount, it is forbidden and against the law, and he can't force you to pay it, especially if the credit itself does not mention that you have to pay the interest.

If they are asking for a higher interest rate, they are committing a criminal offence, and you can file a case against them, at the nearest police station.

There is no law, allowing a big interest, and the maximum is 10 per cent. And as I said, it must be mentioned on paper, what the interest is, and if you are repaying any amount owed, get a receipt with an authorised signature. After you repay the owed sum, stop paying. And let them file a case against you, and if there is any interest, the judge will tell you how much to pay. In most instances, it is not much.

THE LABOUR law amendment of July 14, 1990 states that expatriates who are residing in Kuwait for 10 consecutive years are exempted from the two years minimum requirement for transfer of residence. Can you please clarify whether "ten years" means dependent residence or work permit no. 18?

A reader.

EVEN the March 1989 resolution does not qualify the working residence; and as the worker comes under the social affairs ministry for transfer of residence, it applies only to expatriates holding no 18 visas. The change in the resolution by the new minister does not explain the matter clearly, however, it will be applied for the workers holding of visa no 18 as it was done previously.

I AM a Filipina working as a secretary in Kuwait. I have a Kuwaiti boyfriend who is a police officer. He wants to marry me. He has already begun procedures to take consent from his office and to secure clearance for marriage. Is there any regulation prohibiting a policeman marrying a Filipina? Please let me know as I am disturbed. I love this man very much. My family in the Philippines also likes him. I have already obtained a consent from my embassy here. Is there a need for my sponsor to give his consent in case we get married? All these questions have been bothering me. I need Attorney Khaled Taher's advice and help. I can't sleep or eat thinking about my problems.

H.A.D.

ATTORNEY Khaled Taher says Interior Ministry rules do not permit a police officer to marry a foreign woman without obtaining prior approval from the ministry for such a marriage. Usually, an officer in the army or police is required to get clearance and take the approval from the ministry, even if the marriage is between a Kuwaiti police officer and a Kuwaiti lady.

Actually, it is very difficult to get a clearance for such a marriage; the only thing you can do is to wait for the ministry's reply. Only your boyfriend will be in a position to tell you what the outcome of the request was and after that you can make plans.

I AM an Indian working in a private firm since 1984. The company works on a government construction project. Recently, I found another job and requested my present sponsor for a transfer of residence. He told me that a transfer is not possible, and my visa is only transferable from a government to another government project. He also claims this rule is applicable only to the Shuaibkh zone. My services have been terminated on completion of the project.

Kindly let me know if such a rule prevails. If yes, what is the remedy. Your advise would be appreciated.

A reader.

(Name and address supplied)

FOR you, there should be no problem in transferring to the new sponsor, as long as you have completed two years employment with the present sponsor. The July 14th resolution, issued by the minister of social affairs and labour, gives you the right to seek a transfer.

There is nothing in the law about certain restrictions applying to the Shuaibkh zone. If you have any doubts, we suggest you approach the Social Affairs Ministry for further clarification.

MY SISTER has been working in a Kuwaiti home. For the past ten months, she has no iqama. Her sponsor has not paid her salary. She will be completing two years employment with them. She wants to return to her country. How can we solve her problem?

M. Abdul Jabbar.

FILE a case against the sponsor asking for the air ticket and salary telling the court you want to return to your country. And treat the matter as though you are not aware that she has no valid residence.

I'VE been staying in Kuwait for more than five years. I am married to a Kuwaiti. I am an Asian. I have two children, both boys. My husband doesn't want me to change my dependent visa in a work permit. I am eager to work. Is it possible for me to apply for a Kuwaiti passport? How long does it take? Suppose my visa is changed, can I come back on a dependent permit?

Sunshine.

THE Kuwaiti law says a foreign woman must complete 15 years after the registration of the marriage in the nationality file of the husband. After 15 years of married life, you can apply for a Kuwaiti passport.

If you want a work permit, it's essential to get your husband's permission; your husband must agree to let you work. As he is the sponsor, and the agreement of both parties — the present and the future sponsor — is required.

On the other hand, your husband is responsible for you, and you must obey his wishes as long as he is paying your expenses and looks after you. If this is the case, you must look after your children rather than go out to work.

If you have a problem drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat Kuwait or fax your questions to us on Tel: 4847495.

(Continued from Page 1)



Hottest summer ever

A responsible source at the Meteorological Department has attributed the hike in temperatures during the last week to winds from the east that pass over a super heated desert and arrive here hot and dry.

Temperature on Wednesday showed 51.2 Celsius and was 50.6 degrees Celsius Thursday. Summer 1990 is now considered the hottest Kuwait has ever seen. Although most people are making a point to stay indoors some are forced to go out in the sizzling heat. Pictures show an ice cream vendor hot under his umbrella, while a lady puts the Arab Times to better use.

Transfer of technology crucial, says academic

By Diana Abou Hader
Arab Times staff



sequester to reduce the country's dependence on foreign technology and accelerate the process of national technological self-reliance."

"But how can we enhance local capabilities if we isolate institutions such as Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research and Kuwait University from the process of technology transfer and how can we build trust between these institutions and the industry?" wondered Ali. He added that Kirs has succeeded in helping local industries solve technical problems, but it should make more effort in linking its activities to the local industries and designing goal-driven programmes to evaluate the most effective way of transferring technology to the country.

All suggested that Kuwait Oil Company, Petrochemical Industries Company and Kuwait National Petroleum Company be allowed to establish research and development centres that would be encouraged to work closely with Kirs.

"Even at the early and important stage of a feasibility study for an industrial project, we don't seek the local sector. Why don't we at least submit such studies done by foreign companies to Kirs or KU to take a look at them and tell us what they think?" asked Ali, adding that foreign enterprises aim at profit maximisation by marketing their technologies and are not keen on whether locals take in the technology or not. "They are usually very careful about giving away the know-how of their technologies and most of these technologies are protected by patents."

Manpower

But out of 15 major projects in petroleum and electricity that involve transfer of technology to Kuwait studied by Ali in his thesis, only in one project the suppliers had restrictions on transferring their know-how to indigenous technical staff. "And yet we didn't benefit from the rest of the projects," lamented Ali.

But last not least is the issue of manpower training. Ali believes that training has been neglected by recipient personnel. "In general, training agreements between the recipient firms and the suppliers were too vague. Clauses didn't specify in detail the period of training, the number of candidates, the qualification requirements, or the time scale required for the replacement of foreign expertise by indigenous manpower," he stated.

"Budgets allocated for training purposes were very low compared to the budget of the project."

For a more successful technology transfer process, Ali recommended the establishment of a centre to co-ordinate research and development activities in the country. Such a centre would help avoiding the duplication of research projects which is a waste of manpower, time and money. He also suggested that a committee for the transfer of foreign technology be formed and charged with the responsibility of establishing criteria for the selection of appropriate technologies in addition to evaluating imported technology and classifying information about available technology in a data bank that makes it readily available to local firms.

"A centre should be established for training local personnel in the specialised areas of technology transfer, technology evaluation, forecasting and patent activities. The centre should be also charged with the responsibility of improving the mechanisms for the successful adoption, adaptation and diffusion of acquired technology.

This will speed up the development of local technology and unpackaging them. "This will con-

Research

Closely related to the issue of channels of transfer is the issue of isolating local academic and research institutions from the process, said Ali. He explained that research institutions play a major role in enhancing the bargaining power of the technology buyer as far as costs and terms of purchasing as well as in adapting imported technologies and unpackaging them. "This will con-

Kuwaiti family duped in London

A LOCAL daily reported that a Kuwaiti family vacationing in London were duped by a gang of thieves who decamped with all the family's jewels and other valuables.

According to sources, the family had rented a flat to spend their summer vacations. The gang came to the flat and informed them that they were from a cleaning company and the family should collect their valuables and put it in a bag before they could proceed with the cleaning.

The family not suspecting any foul play, complied with the request, only to be surprised to be held up at knife-point by two of the gang members who then decamped with the bag and drove off in a car.

Sources said that investigations are under progress, though no further details were available at the time of going to press.

Obstacle

According to Ali, inadequate dissemination of technical information is a third obstacle Kuwait

relations are deeply rooted and there are close links between the two peoples. It is in the interest of both countries and the Arabs to solve such marginal differences speedily and amicably.

"It is in the interest of no one that differences find their way out of the Arab household," the Saudi newspaper Ar-Riyad said. "Even if there are divergent views, these must be solved through an objective dialogue."

"Iraqi newspaper officials said they received instructions from the Ministry of Information to halt attacks on Kuwait as part of an agreement to defuse the crisis between the two oil production and border lines."

Britain welcomed the reduction of tensions in the Gulf.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

BEWARE of little expenses. A small leak will sink a great ship. — Benjamin Franklin, US statesman (1706-1790).

E. German integration

EC prepares legislation

BRUSSELS. (Reuter): It's Brussels instead of Biarritz this year for scores of Eurocrats who have been told to cancel holiday plans and work out how East Germany will become part of the European Community and what it will cost.

Hard-pressed to keep up with the pace of German unification set by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the EC's executive Commission is preparing a 200-page package of draft legislation that will make 16 million East Germans EC citizens.

"Now that the EC is backing German unity without ifs and buts, the task is to make integration of East Germany into the Community as smooth as possible," says an internal Commission paper.

In less-demanding times, EC business grinds to a halt in summer. This year the 17 commissioners are scheduled to hold a special meeting on Aug 21 and thousands of legal texts have to be vetted by then.

Officials say the most difficult legal question will be how much time to give the East Germans to meet EC environmental standards after years of ecological neglect.

EC standards will immediately apply to all new factories, plant and installations but the Commission is still gathering data about pollution caused by old ones in order to decide which can be closed and which modernised.

"It seems the picture is going to be devastating," one Commission official said.

But as always in Community affairs, money is at stake too. Extending EC farm subsidies, development programmes and social spending to East Germany could mean an increase in the annual budget of up to \$3.18 billion. The poorer EC members may be reluctant to contribute to the bill.

Bonn and East Berlin are planning all-German elections in December. The merger of the prosperous capitalist West with the former communist East is expected to take place in that month.

Unification will turn East Germany automatically into EC territory where an immense body of economic and legal rules assembled over almost 40 years become applicable overnight.

Law

"The general principle is that, from the day of formal unification, Community law takes force in East Germany," EC Commissioner Martti Bangemann told journalists last week.

Bangemann, who chairs a special "Germany" group of Commissioners and experts, said there were few problems with EC laws on the free circulation of people, mutual recognition of diplomas, financial services and public sector contracts.

Some 80 per cent of legislation abolishing technical trade barriers as part of the Community's drive to create a giant internal market after 1992 could also be introduced in East Germany directly, Bangemann said.

Commission experts think a transitional period until 1993 will be necessary to bring standards for some foodstuffs and chemicals into line with EC norms. The transition could be longer for some pharmaceutical products that have already been licensed in East Germany until 1995.

"Exceptions to the rule have to be as few in number and as limited in time as possible because the earlier market rules apply in the GDR (East Germany), the earlier the economy will recover from the coercive regime of the past decades," Bangemann said.

The Commission plans to finalise its proposals for temporary exemptions from EC law in mid-September and submit them immediately to the EC governments for approval.

The package will then be studied by a special group of government experts, scrutinised by the European Parliament on two separate occasions and must be adopted unanimously by EC ministers at a special meeting at the end of November.

Package

Officials acknowledge that would be an unprecedented feat for a legislative machine that more than once has spent decades passing one single piece of secondary legislation.

"But this time there is just no room for the usual bickering. We will get it through in time just because we have to," one diplomat said.

The package will also contain estimates on how much it could cost to welcome the East Germans.

Officials reckon that the EC's annual spending — the 1991 draft budget currently stands at 53 billion European Currency Units (\$67.3 billion) — has to be raised by two to 2.5 billion ECUS (\$2.54 to \$3.18 billion).

EC Regional Commissioner Bruce Millan believes that around one billion ECUS (\$1.27 billion) per year will be needed to cover East Germany's claims to the EC's structural funds aimed at helping backward or declining industrial centres.

Kohl has pledged that the Community have-nots such as Portugal, Greece and Ireland will not lose a penny of their own entitlements. Unless compensated by Bonn however, they will have to contribute to whatever additional funds the EC has to raise to accommodate the East Germans.

Under the Community's financing system, West Germany contributes over 25 per cent to the EC budget, making it the EC's biggest net payer.

"You can assume they'll keep that role after unification but to a somewhat lesser extent," said one EC budget specialist.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1540 — Thomas Cromwell, Earl of Essex, is executed in England for treason.
 1588 — Lord Admiral Howard of Effingham sends British fire ships to destroy many of Spanish galleons off Calais, France.
 1643 — English parliamentarian forces under Oliver Cromwell take Gainsborough.
 1742 — Peace of Berlin between Austria and Prussia ends first Silesian war.
 1794 — French revolutionaries M. Robespierre and A. Saint Just are executed.
 1821 — Peru's independence from Spain is declared formally.
 1866 — Danish constitution is revised in favour of king and Upper House.
 1868 — Third Maori war breaks out in New Zealand.
 1904 — Russia's Minister of Interior Viacheslav Plehve is assassinated.
 1914 — Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia, signalling start of World War I.
 1937 — Japanese seize Peking in China.
 1940 — British forces repulse Nazi attack on Mediterranean island of Malta during World War II.
 1945 — US Army bombers crashes into Empire State Building in New York City, killing 13 people.
 1971 — China's Premier Chou En Lai says Peking government will refuse to enter United Nations if Nationalist China remains member.
 1976 — Britain severs relations with government of Uganda's President Idi Amin.
 1984 — Car stuffed with explosives rips through densely populated residential area of Christian East Beirut, killing at least 32 and wounding 140.
 1988 — Tamil rebels kill 14 Sinhalese farmers, and Sri Lanka government troops are put on security alert.
 1989 — India agrees to pull its troops out of Sri Lanka.

Christian population dwindle

Arabs migrate from occupied areas

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (Reuter): A question mark hangs over the future of Christian Arabs in the holy land as centuries-old communities like Jerusalem and Bethlehem suffer a relentless hemorrhaging of their Christian population.

Pressed by violence and a severe economic squeeze as Israel fights to crush an Arab revolt against its rule of the occupied territories, thousands of Christians are seeking a new life abroad.

"The danger of emigration threaten both the church and the country," Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, the first Catholic Arab church leader in occupied Jerusalem, told a conference on emigration this month.

Sociologist Bernard Sabila said Christians have been emigrating since early this century but the pace has accelerated to the point where the existence of the ancient communities is threatened.

Population

"We are facing a very serious population drain," said Sabila, who recently concluded the first study on emigration among Christian Arabs from the territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

Although Muslims are leaving in smaller numbers, Christian Palestinians are more likely — and more able — to emigrate. They are richer, better educated and have more relatives abroad to help. They also are a shrinking minority in a Muslim-dominated society.

Christians are now down to three per cent of the 1.75 million Palestinians in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thousands more hope to leave, Sabila said.

Sabila said a survey of 550 Christian families in East Jerusalem and the nearby West Bank towns of Bethlehem and Ramallah, indicated around 3,000 of the estimated 46,000 Christians in the area want to move out to work, study or live permanently.

Existing communities of Christian Arabs that have been growing in North and South America since early this century provide a magnet for further emigrants.

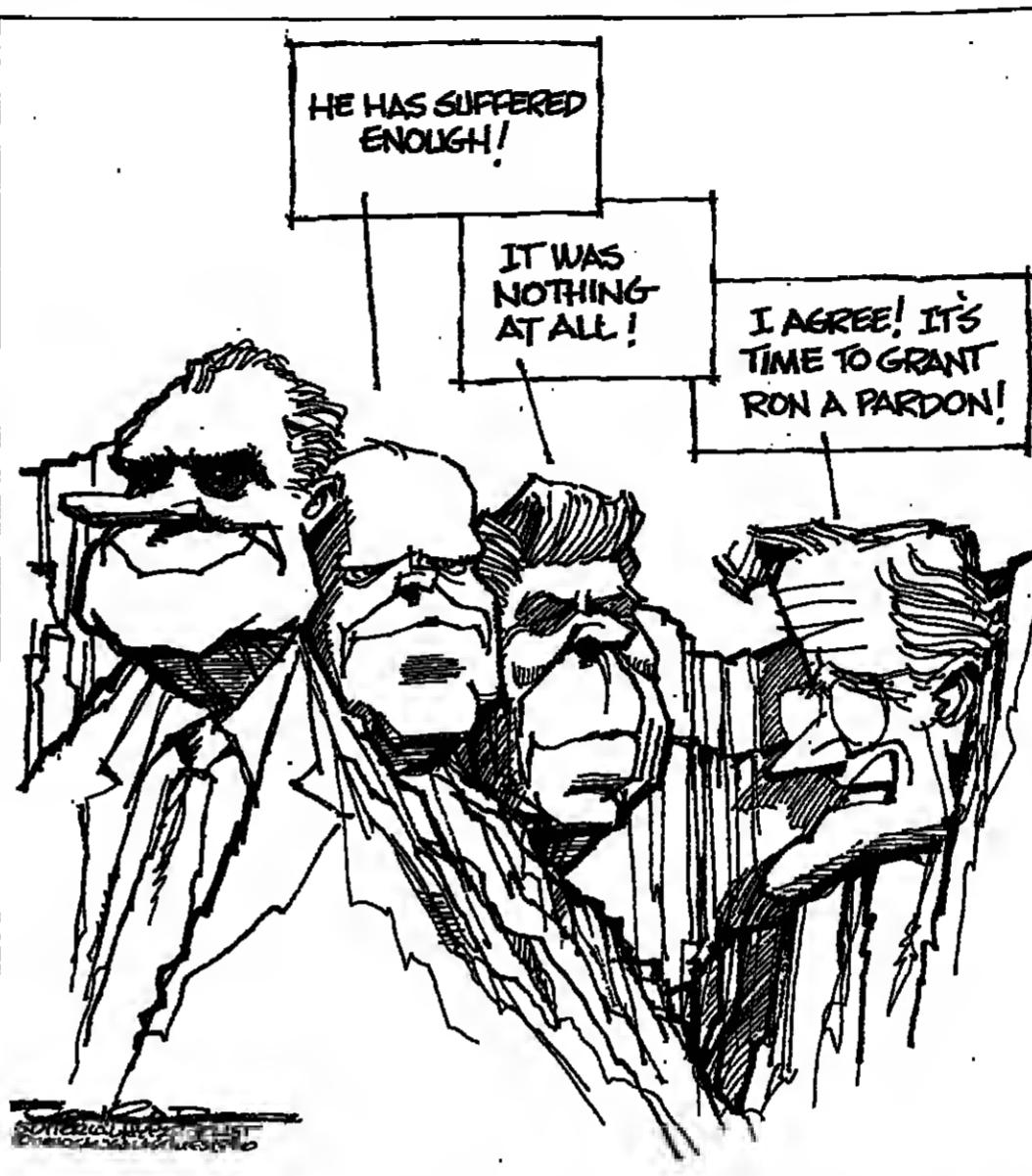
Palestinians say there are more former Ramallah residents in the United States than in their birthplace. The number of Beit Jala natives now living in Chile exceeds those in their West Bank town by three to one.

Hanna Abu Tom, a 40-year-old Bethlehem resident who had worked as a municipal driver for 40 years, moved to Chile six months ago. His wife and four children are packing to join him.

"Hanna could not live here anymore. His salary was not enough to provide for his family," said his aunt Rameh, 68. She has one son in the United States, another in Colombia and a daughter in Chile.

Community leaders express alarm at the growing demand to leave since the outbreak of Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories in December 1987.

Dozens of Palestinians queue for visas outside the US consulate in Arab East Jerusalem every day.



Officials at the embassies of Canada and Australia also report increased demand.

Sabila said his study showed Christian Arabs who withstood the Arab-Jewish strife of the 1940s feel more vulnerable today. At least 681 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis during the current revolt.

Daily clashes, random raids by Israeli tax collectors, reduced business hours and slashed consumer buying power have crippled many Palestinian merchants.

Many Palestinian Christians left to pursue education

because Israeli military authorities closed schools and universities during the revolt.

Sabila said 12 per cent of respondents in his survey reported they wanted to leave the country to get an education. Another 46 per cent want to go abroad to find work. There is more talk of eventually returning than will ever happen.

The emigration is draining away a Christian community that has been a key part of local society throughout the 13 centuries since the Muslim conquest.

Art Buchwald

Taking money from honest citizens

FOR the most part, the main congressional political battles in November will be between the incumbents and the challengers. The smart money is on the incumbents who are leading the challengers by odds of 8 to 1.

I visited the training camp of Sen Sang Froid, who is up for re-election and has victory written all over him.

I talked to Artie Maytag, the senator's manager.

"Your boy looks good," I told him.

"We're taking this match seriously. We are asking every political action committee to double their contribution because we're tired of being known as the 'Filen's Basement' of the Senate."

While we were talking, a man came up and gave Artie a sachet of pills.

"The senator blesses you," Artie told him. Then he explained to me who the man was. "He represents the solid waste hub-cap industry, and they consider Sang the best friend they have on the Hill."

"Doesn't the lobbyist even get to go to a fund-raising dinner for that?" I asked.

Dinner

"Dinners went out with narrow lapels. Now it's cash on the barrel, and the donor goes to the cafeteria of his choice. Frankly, even at \$1,000-a-

plate, the food was never that good."

A woman in a jogging suit ran by and stuck a cheque in Artie's pocket.

"She's from the canned halibut industry. The senator chairs all the legislation on canned fish. I'm glad she gave because that saves me having to buy her breakfast."

"Do the PACs ever distribute money to the challenger?"

"Why should they? The senator is their man — the special interests aren't going to waste their resources on an unknown rookie. This guy coming by now distributes all the funds for the fruitcake makers of America. He knows where Sang stands on fruitcake — so when he dumps his cash in that waste-paper basket over there, he's betting on Sang making fruitcake the national dessert of the country."

"The way things are going with the PACs it appears that a challenger may never win an election."

Favours

"I wouldn't know about that. My job is to make sure that those people who expect the senator to do favours for them when he gets elected, do right by him now. You remember Harry Tudoroff, the lobbyist for the bubble-gum workers of America?"

Favours

"I wish there was some way that I could help, but I really don't have any legislation I want passed."

"It doesn't matter. We take money from honest citizens, too."

"I remember him, but I haven't seen him around," I replied.

"The reason you haven't seen him around is because he split his PAC contributions during the last election between the senator and the challenger, and we kicked him out of our Boosters' Club. From then on it was all downhill for him. When he couldn't even get his picture taken for National Bubble-Gum Day with Sang Froid, he wound up sleeping on a bench in Lafayette Park."

A Brinks truck drove by and two guards started to unload the money.

Artie said, "That's the savings & loans' contribution. They bring one every day hoping that the senator will bail them out."

"Will he?"

"The senator has always believed that, while making a few mistakes, the S & Ls always had their hearts in the right place. They never said 'no' to us during their good times. So he's not going to turn his back on them now."

"I wish there was some way that I could help, but I really don't have any legislation I want passed."

"It doesn't matter. We take money from honest citizens, too."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Eid celebrations

Sir: The Muslim world has just finished celebrating Eid Al Adha, the celebration at the end of the hajj season. Thank you very much for printing the large article about hajj and various aspects concerning it. I enjoyed it last time it was printed and this time was the same.

Regardless, I feel I must comment on two things I witnessed over the holidays in the newspaper that were not only sad and not in the spirit of Islam, but were downright insulting.

The first thing I saw when I picked up the weekend paper was the headline "Ummah mourns tragedy," this reminded me of the terrible accident at hajj and I was eager to read the details... then, as I opened out the paper I saw above that article two large photos of Madonna dressed in only a pointy brassiere, in one photo, and in the other she was only wearing an Italy World Cup jersey. These pictures took up the same size space as the hajj photo, and they occupied a more prominent place. On top of that there wasn't even any story about her to warrant the printing of such pictures, (if there is ever any warrant for such pictures).

The other thing I want to comment on also appeared in the same paper. It was a report about the "Red and Black Night" at the Kuwait Regency Palace, sponsored by the "Weekend Club." In the first paragraph of the article it notes that this "celebration" took place on the first day of Eid Al Adha, implying it was some sort of Islamic function. It's obvious that the organisation that sponsored this soiree is not a Muslim one, so why are they celebrating Eid? Of course the celebratory spirit of participation on Eid would have been a nice gesture, but then I read about how they celebrated, an exploitation of women in the form of beauty contest, and, of course, in the spirit of all beauty contests, slave auctions, and butcher sales.

I just want to say that obviously it was just a coincidence that this fiesta was held on the first day of the Eid, and it would greatly be appreciated if such un-Islamic functions were not correlated with Islam in the future, please. Also the fact is that in case anyone had any misunderstanding about this issue (like some experts who may be new to Kuwait) Islam is never supposed to be celebrated in such a way, and Islam does not accept functions such as these, regardless of what practicing Muslims do. Muslims have standards that have been set up for them by God, and are too respectful of themselves to allow themselves or their families to be exploited, for example, to be displayed 'meat market' style in a beauty contest. Yes, women should make themselves beautiful and be the best they can be, but there's a time and a place for this, and according to Islam a woman's beauty is reserved for her women friends, her close relatives, and especially her husband.

Please, people of the press, Muslim and non-Muslim, respect Islam, in this Muslim country, and all around the world, by not insulting Islam, and what it stands for, as what it stands for is all that is good and pure in this world and the hereafter, and only wants what is best for all mankind.

Mia Ponzo,
Safat.

Afghan rebels

Sir: I'm writing in reply to a query of Richard Noble (his letter was printed on June 21) regarding my previous letter about the Afghan mujahideen.

First of all, I'd like to make it clear that I did not make any allegations without evidence. The information I gave about the Red Cross and Shelter Now International were only two exam-

ples, and there is more controversial activity than only going on there.

The particular incident you are asking about, Noble, was witnessed about 7 years ago by an American physician who went over to Afghanistan to help out in a hospital there. This particular doctor was going almost every year to practice medicine in various medical installations in Peshawar, and had several different appalling stories to bring home each time.

Now, Noble, you have discovered that these so-called "help" organisations are often under other orders and practices than just helping...

I do not deny that the Red Cross has helped many and is continuing to do so all over the world, but I merely want to make people aware of the particular situation in Afghanistan at that time and how various agencies, either under their own control or under a higher authority, are working, not to help, but to harm.

By the way, Noble, if you'd care to do a little research on your own, there are also several eyewitness reports about some of these various same agencies and others, in African relief work as well, with their own sorted stories, but that's an entirely different subject.

It is important to note that unlike these Western agencies, who often force people to go against their religion in order to receive aid, the Muslim agencies, on the other hand, help all religious affiliations without forcing or coercing anyone to adopt Islam, as has been the policy of Islam for more than 1,400 years.

Mia Ponzo,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.</p

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Expatriate remittances to Jordan increase

AMMAN, Jordan, July 27, (AP): Finance Minister Basile Jardaneh said today remittances from Jordanians working abroad have increased remarkably and are expected to reach \$800 million by year's end.

Jardaneh said the Jordanian economy is recovering rapidly and that local production grew by at least two per cent this year.

Remittances of Jordanian expatriates have recently been gaining momentum. This is a very interesting and encouraging development and we hope it will continue,"

Jardaneh told a news conference.

He said the level was well above 1989, when expatriate workers sent home \$640 million.

He said the increase was due to growing confidence in the performance of the national economy and the renewed stability of the dinar.

An estimated 275,000 Jordanians work in oil-rich Gulf countries, and officials say their remittances make up two-thirds of the country's reserves.

In 1987 remittances amounted to a little less than one billion dollars, but there was a sharp drop in 1988 when Jordan's heavy debt burden strained the economy.

Foreign currency reserves dwindled to nothing that year and the Jordanian dinar also depreciated by 70 per cent.

Jardaneh said net foreign currency reserves now stand at \$270 million, compared with a deficit of \$150 million registered in April 1989.

He projected net reserves would rise to

\$450 million by the end of this year. They now stand at \$650 million compared to \$443 million in December 1989, and \$63 million in May 1989, he said.

"Gross reserves should reach \$800 million by the end of this year if the Arabaid we receive is not less than \$500 million."

Jordan hopes to sign an agreement with commercial banks by the end of August under which it would slash some of its \$8

billion foreign debt by buying it back at a 30 per cent discount.

Finance Minister Basile Jardaneh told a news conference details of the debt buy-back were the main sticking point in talks with about 90 banks in the London Club on rescheduling some \$575 million in principal due between January 1989 and mid-1991.

He said the London Club's six-bank steering committee would meet on August 1 to discuss the buy-back plan and he hoped this would lead to conclusion of the deal by

August 31.

"We have made a formal proposal in writing to them and we are optimistic that they will react to it in a positive manner and we can agree on this outstanding issue since the other issues that remain are of a very minor nature," Jardaneh said.

The finance minister said Jordan planned to back its debt on the secondary market at a discount of 70 cents to the dollar, using loans from the World Bank or other international agencies.

Trade talks lagging behind

GENEVA, July 27, (Reuters): World trading nations are beginning to worry that deep disagreements and a tight calendar may keep them from finishing the most ambitious round of trade talks in history.

After four days of fruitless talks this week, the head of the 96-member GATT global trade body told negotiators to stop playing "hide-and-seek" and get down to serious work.

But, with only 18 weeks left before a December deadline, delegates are wondering openly if they will be able to meet the far-reaching goals they set for themselves when they launched the Uruguay Round with fanfare almost four years ago.

"There is one danger — discouragement — because of the amount of work which has still to be done and because, we have to admit it, we are behind schedule," chief European Community negotiator Hugo Paemen said after the latest session of talks ended on Thursday.

"We have to be pessimistic in our heads, but optimistic in our hearts," he said.

At stake in the Uruguay Round, the eighth round of world trade talks since the GATT was created in 1948, is the future of the three-trillion-dollar global trading system.

Trade ministers from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade launched the round in Uruguay in September 1986, saying border barriers to goods and unfair subsidies were stifling world commerce.

De Beers-Moscow sign diamond deal

Dealer tightens grip

LONDON, July 27, (AP): De Beers tightened its grip on the global diamond market Wednesday with an exclusive five-year deal to sell the Soviet Union's rough diamond output, which could amount to a total of more than \$5 billion dollars.

The financially strained Soviet Union, among the world's highest gem diamond producers, reached the deal with De Beers because it wanted to sell a huge stockpile of diamonds without disrupting the stable diamond market, De Beers said.

It said its Luxembourg-based subsidiary, Centenary Holdings SA, has agreed to make a secured advance of 1 billion dollars to Glavalmazzoloto against future diamond deliveries. Repayment would be made over five years beginning in November.

"It certainly made it easier, yes," De Beers spokesman Roger van Eeghen said.

South Africa-based De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd. established the publicly-held Swiss company in May to head up the non-Soviet African businesses of the De Beers company, which is controlled by the wealthy Oppenheimer family of South

Africa.

De Beers Centenary said in a statement released in Lucerne, Switzerland, and made available in London that it reached the agreement with Glavalmazzoloto of the USSR for the exclusive export and sale of the Soviet Union's diamond production.

Glavalmazzoloto is the main administration for precious metals and diamonds under the Soviet Union's council of ministers, De Beers said.

It said its Luxembourg-based subsidiary, Centenary Holdings SA, has agreed to make a secured advance of 1 billion dollars to Glavalmazzoloto against future diamond deliveries. Repayment would be made over five years beginning in November.

The Soviet diamond stockpile will be held at De Beers' London-based marketing arm, the central selling organisation, as collateral for the 1-billion-dollar advance, De Beers said.

The organisation, a 57-year-old cartel, has the financial resources to hold large stocks of diamonds, which is how it keeps the market stable.

Gorbachev said Thursday after meeting with Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti that the Soviet Union is not seeking a "handout" from the West. He told the Communist Party congress earlier this month that as far as such aid is concerned, "we act not as beggars but as partners and we are not going to take anything free of charge."

Yet the Soviet Union clearly needs immediate cash infusions to avoid further economic decline.

"We are at present in the most difficult hard-currency situation," Soviet Premier Nikolai Ryzhkov said in a speech last week as he outlined a new plan to rescue the economy.

The Soviet Union's hard currency balance of payments deficit in the first half of 1990 topped 6.4 billion rubles (\$11.01 billion), 150 per cent more than the same time last year, official figures showed on Friday.

A report from the Soviet statistics agency Goskomstat, outlined in the latest issue of the weekly *Commissar*, said industrial output also faltered and inflation soared during the six-month period.

"The economic decline, which has continued for many months, has not become a consistent trend," the newspaper said.

In another move to soak up a domestic supply of hard currency, the government on Tuesday announced it was setting up a network of stores where Soviet enterprises and organisations, as well as individual citizens, will be able to buy imported and high-quality domestic goods for foreign currency.

It also said Soviet citizens may spend their foreign cash in the Soviet Union beginning Aug. 1 without having to disclose where they got the money.

Deputy Prime Minister Stepan Sitanian, head of the government's economic commission, said individual Soviets had 200 million rubles (\$324 million) in foreign currency they had legally acquired but were unable to spend in the Soviet Union, except at a few special shops for foreigners that have a limited amount of goods.

Moscow also is changing its policies regarding raw materials for fellow socialist countries.

The Soviet Union's big budget deficit has been slashed in the first half of 1990 but further improvement depends on new reform measures due to go before parliament, according to Finance Minister Valentin Pavlov.

Pavlov was quoted by the official labour union newspaper *Trud* on Wednesday as saying the deficit was 24 million rubles (\$41 billion) for the first six months of 1990.

Loan burden eased in 1989

BASLE, Switzerland, July 27, (Reuters): The sum owed by the world's most indebted nations fell slightly in the second half of last year, but Eastern Europe's struggling economies soaked up more foreign capital, figures published on Friday showed.

The cumulative debt of all developing countries swelled 12.3 billion dollars to 729.9 billion in the period under review, according to the data compiled jointly by the Basle-based Bank for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Two key categories of foreign debt in 15 heavily indebted countries — a name coined as a result of a debt reduction plan devised by James Baker, former treasury secretary and now secretary of state in the US administration — had to face Western banks less willing to extend new loans. As a result, their net debt was declined.

These so-called "Baker countries" — a name coined as a result of a debt reduction plan devised by James Baker, former treasury secretary and now secretary of state in the US administration — had to face Western banks less willing to extend new loans. As a result, their net debt was declined.

With the law as it is, a South Korean Science and Technology Ministry official said.

Even when caught, violators pay minimal fines, ranging from \$70 to \$280 on average, a US businessman in Seoul said.

"Enforcing anti-piracy laws has never been a priority with local police," said Hsieh Shu-i, a lawyer representing a group of US software producers in Taiwan.

Only 24 cases of computer piracy were investigated in 1989 and 20 in 1988, official Taiwan figures show.

But software developers are striking back.

The Business Software Alliance, a group of US software producers, has brought legal action against firms in Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan, representatives of the group said.

"We have closed down three international mail order software companies," said Alvan Kang, a lawyer representing the BSA in Singapore. "One even had orders from a priest in England."

The BSA has also turned its attention to users of pirate software, filing lawsuits against companies that copy software for in-house use.

Illegal in-house copying of legally bought software accounts for at least three-quarters of losses from piracy, BSA president Douglas Phillips said in Singapore.

The BSA move has prompted multinationals and large companies in the region to go on software shopping sprees as they dump illegal copies, industry sources said.

"BSA is going to take further action against dealers who give away software," Kang said.

Containing US pressure, and the threat of retaliation under a punitive tariff mechanism in a US trade bill, the Super 301 clause, should also encourage governments to get together with software pirates, analysts say. Pressure will also mount as local software companies emerge, they added.

"(Piracy) is a serious problem in India. It is affecting the growth of the local industry because pirated versions are cheaper than the licensed ones," said Rajesh Agarwal, manager of an Indian computer company.

Head US negotiator Julius Katz warned delegates that the US Congress would not accept a watered down agreement.

Shares lose more ground in London

Bombay index soars

LONDON, July 27, (Agencies): Shares on London's international stock exchange lost further ground today as a weaker start on Wall Street worsened an already bearish mood, as the week's bad news depressed the market, analysts said.

The "Financial Times Stock Exchange 100-share index" reached 2,317.7 points at 4 p.m., down 73 points. The Financial Times 30 index stood at 1,842.9 points, down 8.6 points.

The US currency has kept an upward trend in the last seven trading days, gaining a total of 3.50 yen from the closing of 1,472.5 yen on July 18.

Spot transactions today totalled 39,509 billion, down from Thursday's \$10,112 billion.

The benchmark Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues fell 500.6 points, or 1.61 per cent, to 30,863.48. The index had stood 331.52 points on Thursday.

It was the lowest closing since May 2, with the index finished at 30,173.64.

In Sydney, the Australian market followed the gyrations on Tokyo's Nikkei index. The All Ordinaries fell 12.9 to 1,578.0.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index fell quickly in the morning but ended 2,121 higher at 3,485.80.

In Singapore, bargain-hunting alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times index rose 7.41 to 1,565.49.

In Bombay, the Bombay Stock Exchange index soared for the third day running. The share index ended up 25.03 points to 1,033.5 and hit a record 1,036.22 just before the close.

In Frankfurt, West German shares slipped in dull trade dominated by pre-weekend position squaring. The 30-share DAX index finished 13.08 points lower at 1,918.81.

In Zurich, Swiss shares closed almost one per cent lower in thin volume.

Illegal copying rampant

Asian software laws lax

SINGAPORE, July 27, (Reuters): Walk into almost any computer shop in Asia and chances are that software can be found on sale at a fraction of list price.

With copyright laws non-existent in some Asian countries and unenforced in others, illegal software copying is rampant, industry sources say.

"Nobody I know has legitimate software," a computer engineer in Singapore said. "They would be stupid in pay so much for it."

Expensive programmes are routinely given free to computer buyers in Asia, while computer shops from Karachi to Kuala Lumpur will run off copies of diskettes for a few dollars each.

US pressure and Asian realisation of the need to create and protect domestic industries have prompted some countries to enact tougher penalties on software pirates.

But with enforcement still lax, piracy remains a thriving business, fuelled by strong demand, experts say. In Asia illegal copying of software is often seen more as a right than a crime.

"Many people still consider software copying as a legitimate way to cut costs and share data," said Yutaka Kubota of Japan's Software Legal Protection Organisation.

Every software package sold legally multiplies tenfold through illegal copying, the Japan Computer Software Association estimates.

At least Japan has a software copyright law — in China and Pakistan, software piracy is not a crime.

"Piracy is very common in Pakistan," Aamer Khan, a computer salesman in Karachi said. "Almost all software is pirated here." The cost? Just 20 rupees (90 US cents) apiece, including floppy diskettes, he said.

While other Asian countries have in recent years tightened up copyright laws, many are content to let manufacturers lead the charge against pirates.

Under South Korea's 1987 Computer Programme Protection Act for example, cracking down on violators is only possible when police receive a report.

"We don't do raids or seizures unless there is a complaint ... It seems that foreign manufacturers are satisfied

with the law as it is," a South Korean Science and Technology Ministry official said.

Even when caught, violators pay minimal fines, ranging from \$70 to \$280 on average, a US businessman in Seoul said.

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Head US negotiator Julius Katz warned delegates that the US Congress would not accept a watered down agreement.

Officials agreed that simmering ill will, slow progress and the fast-approaching December deadline have

3 high-tech projects – futuristic city, spaceport, fast train – launched

Australia full-speed ahead into the 21st century

SYDNEY, July 27. (AP): A commercial spaceport, "a city of the future" and a 220-mph (350-kph) train are on the drawing board aimed at taking Australia full-speed ahead into the 21st century.

Environmental, social and financial hurdles remain to be overcome. But the projects, expected to cost a total of about 30 billion dollars (\$24 billion), appear ready to proceed.

The Cape York Spaceport hopes to launch US-made satellites from Soviet rockets to take advantage of the rapidly growing commercial market.

The "city of the future," known by the unwieldy name of multifunction city, aspires to create a high-tech centre similar to California's Silicon Valley.

The very fast train would zip passengers the 650 miles (1,000 kilometres) from Sydney to Melbourne,

Australia's two largest cities, in as little as three hours.

Federal and state governments are pursuing a politically fail-safe policy for the three high-tech projects by letting private enterprise take most of the economic risk.

The proposed spaceport, in northern Queensland state, could cost about 350 million dollars (\$320 million).

Officials are hoping for US government approval, believed imminent, for the facility, which would use Soviet Zenit rockets to launch American Cape York Agency.

"But the Aboriginal issue, which threatens a clash between the stone-age and the space-age, could impede an early start of the spaceport on the remote Cape York peninsula.

Essington's US partner, United Technologies Corp, to participate.

Approval would give Australian officials the go-ahead to sign a series of agreements with the Soviet space agency Glavcosmos to supply 370 million dollars (\$308 million) worth of rockets and technology over the next 10 years.

"It's all systems go, subject to Aboriginal and environmental issues being satisfactorily addressed," said Stephen Williams, general manager of the Cape York Agency.

"But the Aboriginal issue, which threatens a clash between the stone-age and the space-age, could impede an early start of the spaceport on the remote Cape York peninsula.

The 80,000-acre (200,000-hectare) site at Temple Bay, 120 miles (200 kilometres) from the tip of the peninsula, is the traditional home of the Wuthatihai and Kukuyau people and the site of the "Stringy Dreaming."

Borignal legend says the pure white silica sand dunes were created when the stringy, a marine invertebrate, came to that area flipped over and exposed its white underbelly.

Aborigines believe they will become sick and die if their "dreamplace is damaged.

The federal and Queensland state governments have approved the project in principle, although declining to commit any money to the spaceport. They have promised to consider Aboriginal rights and environmental concerns.

Scientists and the Australian space office say the spaceport, could generate 600 million dollars (\$500 million) in annual income, with nearly a third staying in Australia.

"Satellites are essential for environmental research, mining and exploration, financial services and sea safety," said Graham Harris, director of the office of Space Science and Applications in the federal capital, Canberra.

"At the moment, we (Australia) are almost totally dependent on overseas services," he said. "We can't afford not to be involved."

While the spaceport project involves Soviet and American rockets and satellites the Australians

have sought the assistance of Japan, one of its most visible and criticised trade partners, for the "city of the future."

Japan's large-scale investments in Australia, from skyscrapers to gold coast golf courses, have raised the ire of politicians and the public who feel the Japanese are buying up too much of the country.

When the Australian Government began looking for suitable partners for the futuristic city, a consortium of Japanese companies bid for the project that could cost 18 billion dollars (\$15 billion) over the next 25 years.

The city would revolve around three to five high-tech industries and serve as home to 150,000 to 200,000 people.

UK National Power to lay off workers

\$1.1b loss reported

LONDON, July 27. (AP): National Power Plc, the larger of the two British electricity generating companies getting ready for privatisation, yesterday posted a 605 million-pound (\$1.1 billion) loss and said it was cutting 5,000 jobs over the next five years.

The state-owned company said it expected the job cuts to be achieved through natural wastage and voluntary layoffs. It currently employs about 6,000 people, following 800 job cuts earlier this year.

The results for the year ended March 31 were presented as if National Power had been an autonomous business throughout the year.

National Power along with the smaller Powergen, were the two generating companies officially formed in March from the break-up of the Central

Electricity Generating Board. Their shares were to be offered to the public next year.

But earlier this week, the government said it has held discussions with British conglomerate Hanson Plc that might lead to the private sale of Powergen, which produces 18,700 megawatts of electricity annually.

Energy Secretary John Wakeham said that if a serious takeover proposal also was made for National Power, which produces 29,700 megawatts annually, he would have to examine that as well.

If sold to the public, National Power could raise between 2 billion pounds to 2.5 billion pounds, and Powergen could raise £1 billion analysts say.

Painting helps pay off debt

ICI reports fall in profits

Very disappointing

ZURICH, July 27. (Reuters): Swiss investors who lost out when Australian tycoon Alan Bond's business empire crumbled have cashed in on his sale of one of the world's most valuable paintings by having authorities here seize it in transit.

Jules Keller, capital markets chief of Geneva Bank S.G. Warburg Soditic SA, said yesterday his bank stopped a lien on Van Gogh's "Irises" in January while it was being shipped through Switzerland.

Soditic had acted as lead manager for a series of corporate notes issued in Switzerland by a company controlled by Bond and guaranteed by his family's holding company.

But when Bond's brewing, media and property empire collapsed earlier this year, his companies were unable to pay off the notes.

Bond had sold "Irises" — which set a world record when he bought it for \$33.9 million in 1987 — to the J. Paul Getty Museum near Los Angeles for undisclosed price.

After tough bargaining, Soditic forced a third company controlled by Bond to offer to buy back the notes at 65 per cent of their face value. Practically all the noteholders took up the offer, and will be paid on August 10. Keller said.

ICI's fertiliser business, which posted first-half trading profits of £2 million (\$3.162 million) as opposed to £1.5 million (\$2.72 million) a year earlier, was suffering from intense competitive pressures arising from excess capacity.

The company also announced it had agreed to sell the British fertiliser business to Kemira Oy of Finland.

The deal, which ICI said should be concluded by year-end, was valued at less than two per cent of its group net assets.

ICI's fertiliser plants at Billingham in northeast England were not included in the deal and the company said they would be closed with the loss of 640 jobs.

Trading profits from industrial products — general chemicals, petrochemicals, plastics and fibres — were more than halved, from £456 million (\$823.4 million) to £216 million (\$391 million) in the first half of the year.

Turnover increased from £6.64 billion (\$12.03 billion) to £6.82 billion (\$12.34 billion).

At a news conference, Henderson

said inflation in Britain, currently 9.8 per cent, had not fallen as the group had hoped at the beginning of the year and growth looked sluggish for at least the next 12 months.

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Trading profits from industrial products — general chemicals, petrochemicals, plastics and fibres — were more than halved, from £456 million (\$823.4 million) to £216 million (\$391 million) in the first half of the year.

ICI chairman Sir Denis Henderson said the results reflected increasingly difficult conditions in most world markets, especially in Britain and the United States.

"These are very bad figures, ranging from slightly disappointing to very disappointing," said Kleinwort Benson chemicals analyst Tony Cox.

Analysts had forecast a pre-tax profit of £300 million (\$4.45 billion) as opposed to £285 million (\$4.49 billion) for the world's fourth-largest chemicals company.

Turnover increased from £6.64 billion (\$12.03 billion) to £6.82 billion (\$12.34 billion).

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ICI's fertiliser business, which posted first-half trading profits of £2 million (\$3.162 million) as opposed to £1.5 million (\$2.72 million) a year earlier, was suffering from intense competitive pressures arising from excess capacity.

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Divers harm coral reefs

By Randall Palmer
CUBA divers and indiscriminate developers are destroying the world's coral reefs, say ecologists at the who-based World Conservation Union.

The organization, which is now by the acronym IUCN, is planning a programme to help save the colourful reefs from the destructive hand of man.

"Probably the people that like the reefs the most are swimming them the most," IUCN Marine Programme Coordinator Danny Elder said in Geneva. "Scuba divers are not of people who love reefs to death."

Reefs are being smothered or seriously damaged in more than 60 of the 109 countries where they exist.

Reefs, formed by colonies of billions of tiny creatures, can be 20 metres (66) in depth and extend for hundreds of kilometres (miles). They provide not only natural beauty and a highly diverse ecosystem, but also rich fishing grounds and invaluable protection from crashing ocean waves.

Hundreds of thousands of divers breaking off small samples and locals harvesting coral to sell to tourists and swimmers are clipping the reefs away.

All the trappings and rubbish that come with divers and other tourists exacerbate the problem.

Seven cruise ships arrived off Grand Cayman Island in the Caribbean in 1973, bearing 971 passengers.

By 1986 there were 316 ships with 270,000 tourists. Another 146,000 people arrived by air.

Ecologists checked the damage from just one ship as it dropped its 4,500 kg (9,900 lb) anchor onto the reef. The liner bobbed to and fro for two days and its 150-metre (500 foot) anchor chain destroyed some 3,000 square metres (3,600 square yards) of reef.

Coral is destroyed further when building blocks and shipping channels are hacked out of the reefs. Growing numbers of hotels on shore spew out sewage which drowns the coral.

The Maldives, isolated in the middle of the Indian Ocean, has an average altitude of only 1.5 metres (five feet), prompting worry that the nation could vanish if the oceans rise as a result of global warming.

An IUCN scientist who recently visited the Maldives told the authorities they had to stop their own destructive practices.

"What he said to them was, 'If you're here in 50 years to worry about sea-level rise you'll be lucky, because everything else you're doing is damaging the system at a much faster rate than sea-level will,'" Elder said.

"They're polluting their reefs away which are their very protection," Elder said.

Off the coast of Tanzania a tourist island — now dubbed the island with no name — vanished because the reef was stripped clean and the waves swept over.

East of Taiwan, Japan plans to build an airport on Ikiigaki Island which threatens to smother the nearby Shiroko Reef and destroy a unique iridescent blue coral, Elder said.

The IUCN, which groups governments and environmental bodies, will launch a programme to conserve coral at its November meeting in Australia.

It wants to increase public awareness of reefs and the need to save them and the importance of not buying coral necklaces and shells.

Cancer victim flies in the sky

By Judy Byrne

BUBBLY strawberry blonde Sandra Hinds is living the adventurous life of her dreams. She has already made her maiden flight on a glider and now she is packing a whole day with derring-do.

Mother-of-two Sandra has arranged to fly high in a hot air balloon and dangle from a tiny microlight aircraft. Then she will zoom off in a gyrocopter — a cross between a light aircraft and a helicopter with no engine to turn the rotor blade.

After that, 31-year-old Sandra vows she will think of some even more daring exploits.

To Sandra, every second of life is precious... For doctors have told her she should have died last March.

But, instead of sitting moping, Sandra decided to raise money for cancer research by doing all the things that would once have been considered too risky for a mother with young children. Things she had previously only dreamed of doing.

After Sandra learned she was suffering from cancer, she immediately started organising a huge party. The people running the disco for it gave back their £300 fee, so that she could get her mercy mission rolling.

Sandra, who suffers from a rare form of breast cancer, told me: "I have goals to reach, and that definitely helps. When I have my fund raising day I shall look for even bigger projects."

"The charity for which I am organising the day — The Imperial Cancer Research Fund — hope that, some day, and I'll do these things, will make people open their pockets. I'm going to have a good day."

"They are trying to get celebrities involved. So I might be going up in that balloon with singer Cliff Richard. Not many people get that opportunity do they?"

"I wouldn't normally go up in a hot air balloon, having two small children. I would consider that irresponsible, in case there was an accident. They asked if my husband John would like to come up too. But it's just got on. If an accident did happen, the children would be left orphans."

"There is no need for me to be frightened by doing these things. I'm living in extended time anyway."

Slim, attractive Sandra, who lives in a neat, terrace home in Three Bridges, Surrey, was wearing immaculate make-up, a brightly-coloured summer dress and red, high-heeled shoes. She said: "I make the effort because I don't want people to think of me as dead or dying. I must say I feel great at the moment."

Then she explained the philosophy that has borrowed her vital extra months.

Sandra said: "I read a book about cancer that said it was no good living for your children. In my case this six-year-old Christopher and Jocelyn, aged four.

"You have to live for yourself. So I had a big party it was definitely for me. From that time I started organising it to when it all happened was nearly three months. And the thought of it kept me going for the time."

"The party was the start of my fund-raising-business. I paid a local radio station £300 to do a disco, and they said



Brave Sandra Hinds has already made her maiden flight in a glider. Now the mother of two has arranged to fly in a hot air balloon and dangle from a tiny microlight aircraft. Inset: Sandra Hinds, who is using every moment of the time she has left to raise money for cancer research.

they would give it back to me for cancer research. At that time I'd had my first flight.

"So my brother suggested I should do a parachute jump for charity. That was the whole idea of doing the stunts began..."

The cancer charity thought a sponsored jump would be too risky. But they were delighted with Sandra's idea of holding a fund-raising "day of adventure". Now she is doing it for sponsors.

Sandra explained that she will use every minute of the time she has to raise money for research that will help others suffering like herself. She has breast cancer and a secondary form of the disease in both lungs and her lymph glands.

But she believes she is the lucky one in this family. She explained: "I've got the easy life. I'm going to stay there, with flowers in the bedroom being looked after. When it gets to the point where I'm going to die, that's what I'll do."

Typically, Sandra has already given 41-year-old husband John, a production engineer, the chance to leave her. She explained: "When you say your marriage vows, you don't know that something like this will happen. There is no way John contemplated me dying in ten years into our marriage."

"I felt he had to give the chance in all fairness. But he didn't go." With a wicked twinkle she added: "I did tell him he had to take the kids, and that's

probably why he stayed."

John has proved to be a tower of strength. Sandra told me: "He is a man in a million. I say to people, 'I've married the right man for the job.' An old friend said the other day that if it were his wife he'd be down at the doctor getting

valium. I'm glad it's me because I can cope with myself being ill, but if John had cancer, I'd be in a terrible state. He's remarkable. He comes home from work some nights and has to do the housework. He puts the children to bed. He is just there doing things all the time without me having to programme him. 'I can't ask for more than that, because it means he'll be alright afterwards.'

Sandra and John decided to tell their children the truth two years ago, as soon as they knew she had cancer.

Sandra said: "We talk openly in front of them. If John were to lie to the children about their mother dying, would they ever believe anything he told them again?"

"It is such a major thing and, if we don't deal with it correctly now, it could muck them up forever."

John and Sandra have already decided that when Sandra dies, he will leave work to care for the children. She explained: "It seems the best way of easing their loss. I've done all the practical things I can do to help the family because I can't be here afterwards to sort out the mess."

"I felt he had to give the chance in all fairness. But he didn't go." With a wicked twinkle she added: "I did tell him he had to take the kids, and that's

when they grow up. Sandra has already organised the family's finances. Her next project is making the arrangements for her funeral.

But she is also planning adventures for the future, and living each exciting day as it comes. Also she is busy finding sponsors for her derring-do.

And Sandra has made another big decision, which will affect her last days. She has refused any further chemotherapy treatment. She said: "I have had six months of chemotherapy, and most likely more of it wouldn't work. It was awful and I'm not prepared to put my children through that again."

"They had to sit and watch me being ill. And although I used to get three weeks off in between treatments, I never quite recovered."

"I believe in the quality of life, not the quantity. You wouldn't put a dog through what they put some cancer patients through. I'm better than a dog, so I'm not going to go through it. I would rather have six months feeling alright than suffer what Jill Ireland went through. She had catheters put in her heart with drugs going through them. For all her veins had already turned out from the chemotherapy."

"The treatment can cause more trouble than the cancer. You have to weigh up what you are prepared to put up with."

Sandra feels that her mother is upset by the decision, because it means she may not have Sandra around for quite so long.

Hong Kong's 'cigarette boat' smugglers

Pirates play a deadly game

HONG KONG, (Reuters) — High-powered outboard motors scream out of the dark, there is a splintering crash and two seriously injured Hong Kong policemen flounder in the water.

The policemen, one of whom later died, were in high-speed inflatable that tried to intercept a grey "cigarette boat" suspected of smuggling goods to China.

Police say the suspected smugglers deliberately rammed the police boat, throwing its crew into the water and crushing constable Chan Kun-Pun, who died of serious head wounds.

The suspects were never caught.

Police say the stakes have never been higher for smugglers who thread their way through the bays and islets of the British colony's coast before making a dash for China through waters that a century and more ago were the haunt of pirates.

Because of the nature of the crime, statistics are hard to come by.

John MacDonald, who retired last month as assistant police commissioner in charge of the colony's 3,000-strong marine division, talked of one smuggler's boat intercepted recently.

On board, police found an accounts ledger that showed a profit of 40 million H.K. dollars

(\$5.1 million) from contraband in the past six months.

Last week, superintendent Laurence Knox told members of Hong Kong's island communities that an average of 10,000 to 12,000 items a month are smuggled from the village of Tai O on southwest Lantau Island, mostly television sets and video cassette recorders.

He said Tai O was a favourite jumping-off point for smugglers because Chinese territorial waters lie just beyond the fishing community.

Marine police and British naval officers on anti-smuggling patrol say smuggling methods are becoming more sophisticated.

"Five years ago we were stopping fishing boats chugging along with a load of cigarettes on board. Now we track speed boats that can hit 130 kph (80 mph) and are armour-plated," said a British naval officer.

A speedboat with four 400-horsepower outboard motors can carry a million contraband cigarettes and 100 video cassette recorders.

"We reckon it takes about five quick trips to recoup the cost of the boat, the rest is sheer profit," the officer said.

A Hong Kong Chinese mariner who works for a company renting out pleasure junks said he had refused an offer of 10,000 H.K. dollars (\$1,300) to pilot a "cigarette boat" on one run

to China.

"They were offering 5,000 H.K. dollars (\$650) just for a crewman to load and unload," he said.

China has started cracking down on smuggling and asked Hong Kong to help. The speedboats are armour-plated because Chinese anti-smuggling patrols will not hesitate to open fire, naval officers said.

Hong Kong recently imposed restrictions on the use of speedboats after dark. The marine department has stopped issuing licenses to craft with multiple engines exceeding 600 horsepower in total, or with fuel capacity of more than 817 litres (178 gallons).

A key problem is that Hong Kong is a free port. Provided the smugglers have a bill of lading for the goods aboard and break no local laws covering marine craft, there is little the Hong Kong police can do in the colony's waters.

And the magnet that attracts the smugglers is still very strong. Visitors who have been to small fishing communities along the south China coast to the east of Hong Kong say smuggling has virtually replaced fishing as the main occupation.

"The stuff's unloaded there and mid-dilemen from the big cities come down and buy cigarettes and luxury goods," said one recent visitor to the area.

ANC seeks shift in approach to arts

GRAHAMSTOWN, South Africa, (Reuters) — The complacent routine of South Africa's premier arts festival was shattered this year when the African National Congress came to town and said Mozart would have to make way for marimbas.

"We expect to see changes," black resistance poet and Masekela, head of the ANC's London-based Department of Arts and Culture, said in a lecture.

"Strong action will be taken in the future if the pace of change is not fast enough," she told artists and academics in the first statement of ANC policy on culture since the movement was legalised.

For 10 days each winter, students and scholars move out of Grahamstown for their mid-year break and South Africa's answer to Oxford gets overrun by about 20,000 well-heeled and mainly white culture huff.

From ballet to Benjamin Britten, Beethoven and optimistic buskers, from Shakespeare to township sculpture, the festival is a show window of the coming year's best.

But for millions of South Africans, most of the black majority, the 1,000 performances and exhibitions of privately-funded National Arts Festival are beyond reach.

Getting to Grahamstown, more than 1,000 km (600 miles) from the townships of Johannesburg and Pretoria, is physically impossible for many and the price of tickets is prohibitive.

And now critics are saying the programme, which puts Richard II on its "Main Festival" bill and relegates a black story-teller to an outlying venue of the "Fringe," is too European of its focus.

Book reviews

Masterful mysteries

Coyote Waits, By Tony Hillerman (Harper and Row, 291 pp., \$19.95)

The Navajo world is one of order and balance. If something becomes untraced or off-centre, the Navajos call a Shaman to perform a ritual and restore harmony.

The forces that push the Navajo world askew are sometimes attributed to the mythical coyote, a creature that young people learn from childhood stories can be playful but adults discover can also be enemy of order.

Tony Hillerman, in what may be his best effort yet, uses the mythology of coyote as a metaphor to show what happens when greed and ambition are thrown together with the old reservation ways.

Hillerman's familiar detectives — Lt. Joe Leaphorn, who dreams of retiring, and young romantic officer Jim Chee — are back together again. Hillerman does a superb job of weaving their tracks together as both men investigate the murder of a Navajo tribal policeman and the arrest of an elderly Shaman, Ashie Pinto.

Entwined in the tale is the story of a Wild West outlaw Butch Cassidy and the murder of a teacher who once was a high-ranking Vietnamese army officer and Central Intelligence Agency confidant.

This is a masterful mystery by an author who keeps getting better. It also is a welcome return to the Navajo reservation that Hillerman loves and loves, after his previous novel, 'Talking God,' spent so much time away from the reservation.

Triple Cross, By Louis Toscano (Birth Lane, 302 pp., \$19.95)

To most Israelis, Mordechai Vanunu betrayed his faith and his country. But he also gave his government the opportunity to let the world know Israel was part of the nuclear club.

With in-depth research and clear prose, Louis Toscano examines the facts and fictions surrounding the Vanunu case. Unable to interview Vanunu, who was sentenced to 18 years in prison, Toscano skillfully pieces together the man and his possible motives.

Vanunu seemed to desire more public responsibility to stop nuclear proliferation. But Vanunu seems to be seeking something more for himself from his adopted country — his family had emigrated from Morocco when he was young.

He wanted recognition and respect and an end to perceived as well as outright discrimination he felt.

Equally intriguing is Toscano's revelations of the Israeli leadership's desire to let the nuclear secret out through Vanunu and the publication of his story. He reveals the Israeli government's decision to suppress the truth of its role and the campaign of disinformation against Vanunu.

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July 28, 1990

Barclay bridge

RESULTS of the Barclay Bridge Tournament (2nd week) played at the Regency on Sunday:

1/S Nabil Akel & Sherin Bayoumi
2. Bianca Mousalli & Ahmed Tawil
3. Mahmoud Zayed & Adel Sabek
4/W Adel Bayoumi & Dhruva Mukherjee
5. Ravi Bhatt & M. Merchant
6. Alfred Banayot & Mohamed Elbarz

Cameroon player

FIGUERAS, Spain, July 27. (Reuter): Cameroon World Cup midfielder Louis M'Fode has signed a two-year contract with Spanish Second Division side Figueras, the club said. A spokesman said M'Fode, 29, would receive \$200,000 for the transfer from his Yaounde club Canon. But he declined to reveal the total fee involved.

British Seniors golf

TURNBERRY, Scotland, July 27. (Reuter): Arnold Palmer made the deal start to his fourth attempt at winning the British Seniors golf championship yesterday by sharing the first round lead with a four-under-par 66.

Nacional win

MEDELLIN, Colombia, July 27. (Reuter): Two headed goals in three minutes gave Colombia's Atletico Nacional a well-deserved 2-0 win over Mexico's National Autonomous University side in the first leg of the Inter-American Soccer Cup final on Wednesday night.

America's Cup

ASUNCION, Paraguay, July 27. (AP): Chile, Colombia, Uruguay and Bolivia have bid to host next year's America's Cup soccer championship, and a decision will be made next week, an official of the South American Soccer Federation said yesterday.

Olympic bid

BRAZILIA, July 27, (Reuter): Former World Cup soccer star Zico, the Brazilian secretary of sport, will head a bid by Brazil for the 2000 Olympic Games, a government spokesman said on Wednesday.

TV coverage

HAVANA, July 27, (Reuter): The 1991 Pan-American Games in Cuba will have adequate television coverage and anti-doping controls and include howling, despite problems raised by the US trade blockade, a senior Cuban official said on Wednesday.

Record holder

LONDON, July 27, (AP): World mile record holder Steve Cram said Wednesday he will risk another injury by running in Britain's European track trials in an attempt to retain his European 1,500 metres track title next month.

Baseball star

NEW YORK, July 27, (AP): Most people in the United States overwhelmingly believe former baseball star and coach Pete Rose deserved jail time for evading taxes, but most also say he should be allowed to work in baseball again — and even get a spot at the Hall of Fame.

NL umpire

BAKERSFIELD, California, July 27. (AP): Suspended National League umpire Bob Engel pleaded no contest Wednesday to stealing baseball cards, then announced he is retiring from baseball. Engel, who entered the plea through his attorney, was sentenced to three years' probation and ordered to perform 40 hours of community service.

Record bonus

NEW YORK, July 27, (AP): American Leroy Burrell and Carl Lewis will each a 400-metre relay team that will be chasing a \$50,000 world record bonus in Sunday's New York Games at Columbia University. Fred Lebow, the meet's executive director, announced yesterday he would offer the bonus if the Santa Monica track club team of Burrell, Lewis, Mark Witterspoon and Floyd Head breaks the record of 37.83 seconds, set by the 1984 US Olympic team.

Yankees' player

NEW YORK, July 27, (AP): New York Yankees' Don Mattingly returned home to Indiana yesterday and will be placed on the disabled list with back problems that could force him to miss the rest of the season. The team said a decision would be made within a day or two on when to put Mattingly on the injured list, thus removing him from the active roster.

Bizarre report

SYDNEY, July 27, (Reuter): An Australian man claims a letter he sent to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev complaining about a punch thrown by a Soviet rugby union player has led to the sacking of the Soviet rugby coach and two players. Australian officials and players yesterday said the report was bizarre and, if true, they regretted such an action had been taken.

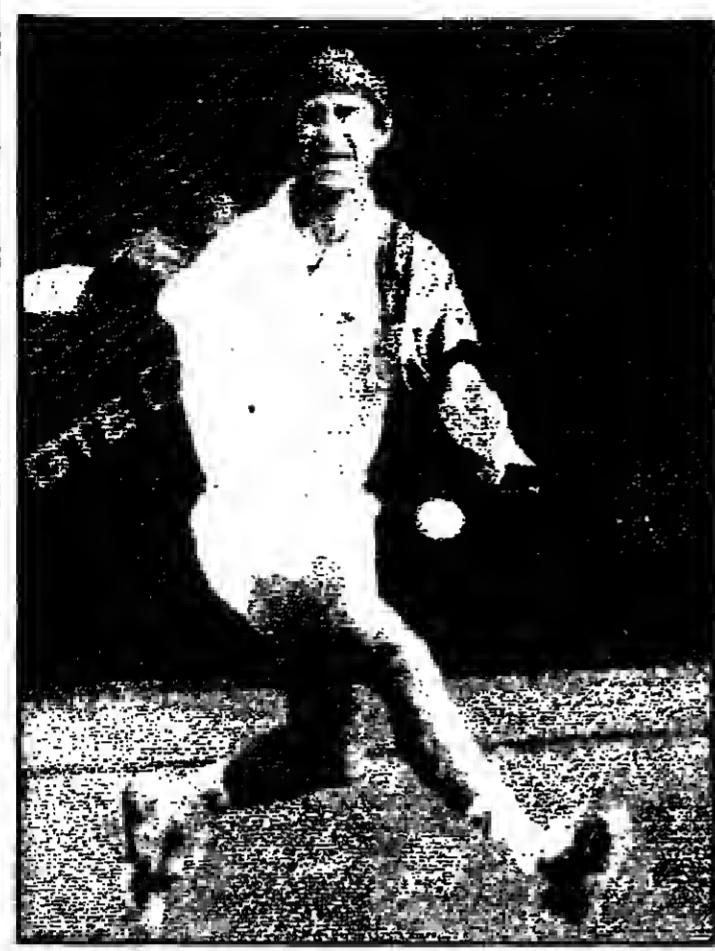
Sprint coach

SEATTLE, Washington, July 27, (Reuter): The former coach of 1989 US women's sprint sensation Dawa Sowell has begun helping Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson prepare to return to competition. Loren Seagrave, a former coach at Louisiana State University, is working regularly with the former world record holder in Toronto. Johnson's year-long suspension for testing positive for a banned steroid at the Seoul Olympics ends on September 4.

Equestrian games

STOCKHOLM, July 27, (Reuter): Results at the World Equestrian Games yesterday.

World dressage championship: individual: 1. Margit Orio-Crepin (France) riding Corlandus 1,456 points; 2. Sven Rothenberger (West Germany) Ideal 1,429; 3. Nina Aenova (Soviet Union) Dikson 1,402; 4. Ann-Katrin Kroth (West Germany) Gofstrom 1,377; 5. Alexey Tishkov (Soviet Union) bolt 1,358; 6. Pa Lani (Italy) 1,344. Team: 1. West Germany 2,806 points; 2. Soviet Union 1,760; 3. France 2,640.

Agassi brushes aside Cahill**McEnroe sails through**

McEnroe showed signs of resurgence

TORONTO, July 27. (Reuter): John McEnroe, playing his best tennis in recent times, breezed to a 6-3 6-4 win over Amos Mansdorf in the third round of the \$1.2 million Canadian Open men's tennis championships on Thursday.

Top-seed Andre Agassi made quick work of unseeded Darren Cahill 6-2 6-4. The fourth-ranked Agassi was ruthless — he rarely permitted Cahill to successfully approach the net.

"It was a good day — a good day at the office," said the immodest Agassi.

The third-seeded McEnroe is showing the first signs of a resurgence.

"Since I started playing it's probably the best I've played," McEnroe said. "I served and volleyed pretty well, but there's still work to be done."

At Wimbleton, there was a rumour that some of that work would include coaching assistance from none other than Jimmy Connors. During a television interview — with Connors interviewing McEnroe — the issue was raised.

"I thought there might have been something to it," said the 12th-ranked McEnroe. "If Jimmy wanted to come around and help me, I think there are things he could help me with."

"I think he's still cooking up ideas for himself to play," McEnroe

said. "But it sounded fine to me to work together. I'd be surprised if he didn't start playing again."

McEnroe is not sitting around waiting to hear from Connors, who is on the injured list. He has gone back to his roots — working with boyhood coach Tony Palafox during his off-weeks in New York.

McEnroe is honest when he compares himself to the McEnroe of yesteryear. He knows there is a wide gap that needs to be closed to get back closer to his earlier form.

"Right now, I don't think I do anything better," McEnroe said.

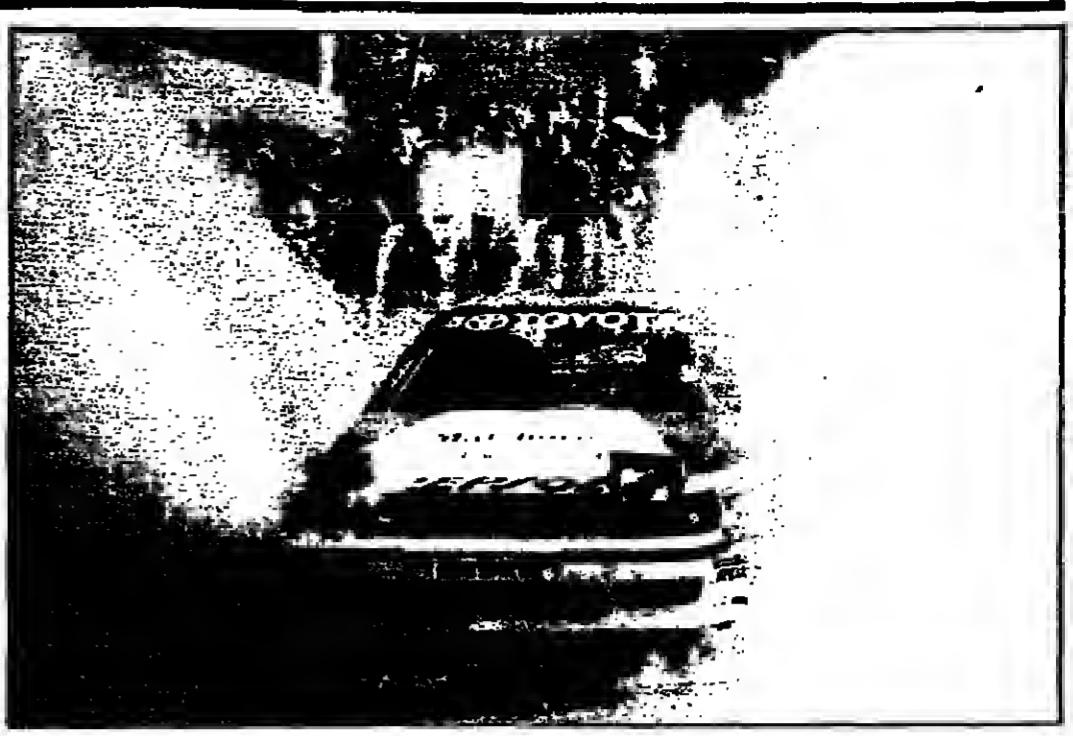
Agassi gave the 66th-ranked Cahill a lesson in playing tennis.

In the first set, Agassi served at 81 per cent to Cahill's 48 per cent, and Agassi had 14 outright winners in the set and Cahill had 14 unforced errors.

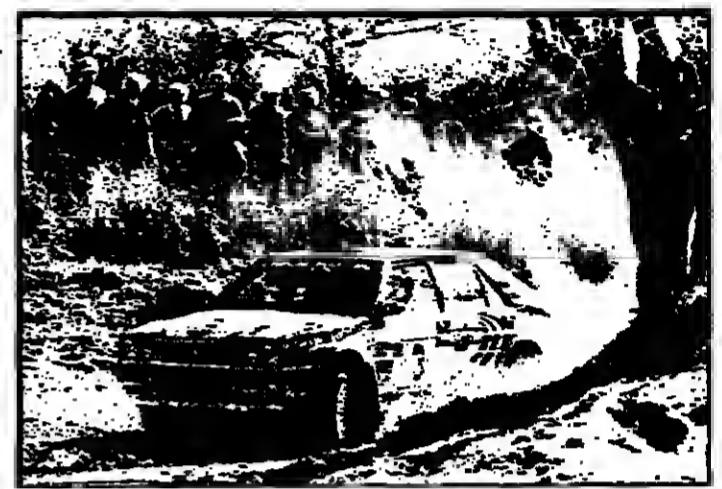
In the second set, the score indicates a better showing for Cahill than there really existed. Agassi kept the pressure on and Cahill looked wobbly on his chances.

Results

Jacki Flack (Switzerland) beat Jimmy Arias 6-3 6-1; 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; 3-6; 3-6; John McEnroe (US) beat 13th-seed Mansdorf (Israel) 6-4 6-4; Todd Winkler (US) beat Ramesh Krishnan (India) 6-4 6-4; 7-6; Michael Chang (US) beat 9th-seed Michael Stich (West Germany) 6-3 6-1; 6-2; 6-4; 6-4; Peter Sampras (US) beat Andrew Sandgren (Canada) 4-6 6-3 6-2.



Sezn in action on Wednesday's leg (Reuter wirephoto)

Biasion wins 2nd leg

Biasion on way to victory in the first leg. (Reuter wirephoto)

BUENOS AIRES, July 27. (Reuter): Reigning world champion Massimo Biasion of Italy won the second leg of the Argentine motor rally after championship leader Carlos Sainz of Spain overthrew his Toyota on a mountain road yesterday.

Sainz and his team-mate Luis Moya were not hurt in the accident, which happened during the 13th prime of the 2,116 km (1,324-mile) rally.

He returned to the race and finished second at the end of the leg in Cordoba, a city 800 km (500 miles) northwest of Buenos Aires, organisers said.

Biasion, winner of the past two drivers' championship, on Wednesday took the first leg from Buenos Aires to Cordoba, a 175 km (100 miles) haul raced mostly on tarmac.

After 175 km (100 miles) of the 445 km (280 miles) second leg on dirt roads on Cordoba's hills, Biasion's general time was two hours 53 minutes and 38 seconds.

The Olympic champion clocked one minute 1.49 seconds in the British swimming championships. He was chased home by club mate James Parrott, whose time of one minute 2.09 seconds was the second fastest in the world this year.

"I was disappointed," Moorhouse said. "I'm happy that I've proved again that I'm still the best in the world, but I didn't want to prove that any more. I don't want to keep on improving the record." He said he would try and do just that at a meeting in Rome next month.

Moorhouse first set his record when he won the European title in Bonn last August and recorded the same time when taking the Commonwealth Games crown in Auckland in January.

But yesterday's swim made him the first Briton to set a world medley record in Britain since Scotland's Ian Black's 400 metres individual medley record in Cardiff in 1958.

"It's nice to equal the world record in Britain," Moorhouse said. "My family have seen the two previous records but all the friends that I train with have never seen me do it."

It was clear the record was out when he covered the first 50 metres in a blistering 28.84 seconds and surged away at the turn. But his frustration showed when he looked up at the clock and saw the time of 1:01.49 yet again.

"I thought somebody must have been joking when they said up that time again just for a laugh," he said.

The commission reported on a meeting of the committee which was held June 15 and said that a decision on the possible expansion would have to be made next year or early 1992 for teams to begin play in 1993.

The committee recommended limiting such expansion to two teams, citing "the overall economic climate and other factors."

Among the cities and areas mentioned for franchises are Jacksonville, Florida, Memphis, Tennessee, the states of North

Carolina and South Carolina, as well as Baltimore, Maryland; St. Louis, Missouri, and Oakland, California — former NFL cities whose teams moved elsewhere.

In addition to expansion, the commission said the committee may make recommendations this fall for a limited realignment of clubs that could take place as early as 1992.

"Expansion involves examination of many complex issues including competitive balance, revenue sharing, television, scheduling and player employment," Tagliabue said. "The committee recognised the economic conditions in professional sports and the general economy are difficult to assess beyond the term of the current NFL television contracts."

Jordan hits home runs

CHICAGO, July 27, (AP): Michael Jordan moved from the basketball court to the batters' box Wednesday when he joined a Chicago White Sox practice and promptly hit two home runs.

Jordan, wearing a numberless Sox uniform, knocked two practice pitches into the left field stands at Comiskey Park.

"I've always been a pull hitter," Jordan, a right-hander, said after the baseball practice. "I took some pretty good pitches. It was fun. It really was."

The 6-foot-6 (1.98-metre) star of the Chicago Bulls professional basketball team took the first three pitches from Bullets ence Dave Laroche before stroking one to centre field.

Jordan then answered the crowd's chants with two home runs, one narrowly missing the upper deck.



Jordan with promoter Donald Trump (left) at the news conference. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tyson fit for Stewart fight

NEW YORK, July 27, (Reuter): Brimming with confidence, former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson on Wednesday formally announced a September 22 bout with top-10 contender Alex Stewart on his second step to regain the world heavyweight title he lost last February.

"I'm not worried when the 22nd comes," said Tyson of the scheduled 10-round bout in Atlantic City against the English-born Jamaican with a 26-1 record. "The dude is going to be trouble. Stewart is dead and if I don't knock him out, it doesn't count."

Punching power had been Tyson's trademark during his four-year championship reign, before James "Buster" Douglas knocked out the former champion on February 11 in Tokyo.

Tyson returned to the ring last month with a first-round knockout of lightly-regarded fellow-American Henry Tillman in Las Vegas for his 38th victory in 39 fights.

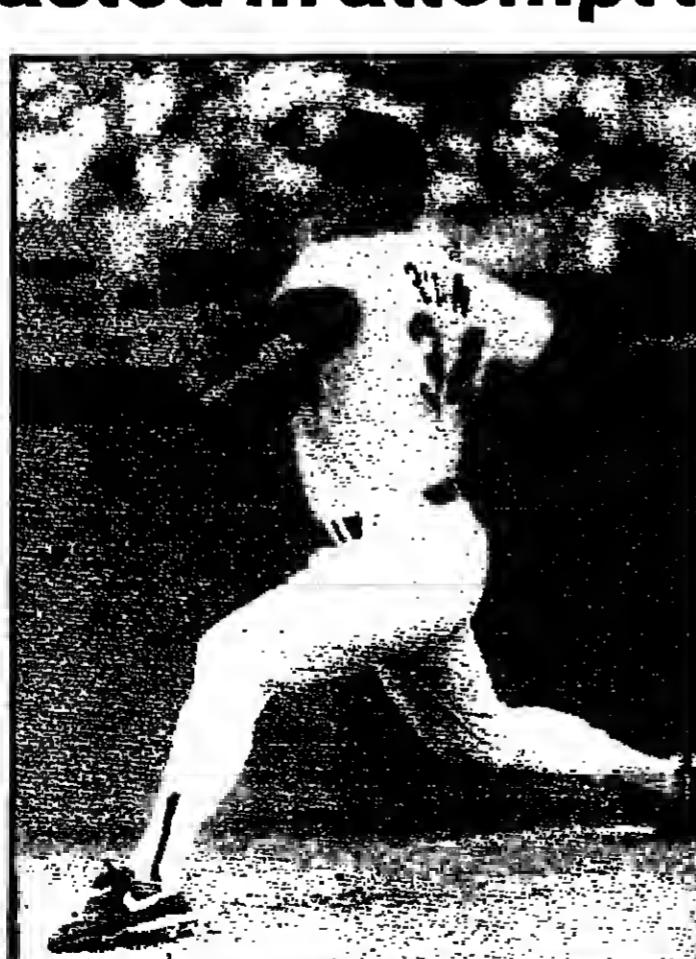
While he will have to wait his turn to get a title crack as Douglas first defends against number-one contender Evander Holyfield later this year, Tyson has no doubts about the identity of the future heavyweight king.

"I'm going to regain the title," Tyson said. "Everybody has their doubts, but it will be a different era altogether and they will have to pay their dues."

"I'm not letting my body get out of shape anymore," said the 24-year-old Tyson. "I'm in great shape and just concentrating on being a better boxer."

Tyson's words and look, however, did not appear to upset Stewart, who became a legitimate title contender last year in a round losing effort against Holyfield.

"We all know Tyson, there is no secret. He comes and takes care of business," said the New York-based 25-year-old.



Ryan in action on Wednesday. (Reuter wirephoto)

It was the first time this season that Ryan gave up as many as seven runs in one game and only

the second time since joining the Rangers in 1989 that he allowed as many as 10 hits.

Tigers 10, Red Sox 4

In Detroit, Lloyd Moseby hit a tape-measure home run and a two-run single and Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker each had three hits and two RBIs as Detroit knocked Boston out of a first-place tie in the American League East. The Red Sox dropped one game behind Toronto.

Winner Dan Petry (8-6) yielded three runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings. Loser Mike Gardner (2-6) went 1 2/3 innings and gave up four runs.

The Tigers broke a 1-1 tie with three runs in the second inning. Gardner started the inning by walking Moseby and Scott Lussader, who moved up on John Shelby's sacrifice. Mark Salas' groundout scored Moseby and Whitaker, who homered in the eighth off Jeff Gray, singled Lussader home.

Gardner walked Tony Phillips and was replaced by Dennis Lamp. Trammell greeted Lamp with an RBI single.

Mariners 6, Twins 4

In Minneapolis, Edgar Martinez's three-run homer snapped a string of 182 at-bats without a home run. Martinez hit seven homers in his first 134 at-bats but none since May 24. He had only one RBI in his previous 17 games.

Ken Griffey Jr added his 14th homer in support of Bill Swift (4-2), who had his third consecutive

strong start after 30 straight relief appearances this season.**Standings****American League**

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	46	51	.455	—
Boston	51	47	.526	4.1-2
Baltimore	47	50	.485	4.1-2
Detroit	48	52	.480	5
Cleveland	46	50	.479	6.1-2

Indian manager criticises his captain

LONDON, July 27. (Reuters): Indian manager Bishen Bedi openly criticised his captain Mohammad Azharuddin for putting England in to bat in the first cricket Test yesterday.

England finished on 359 for two with captain Graham Gooch 194 not out and

Allan Lamb unbeaten on 104.

Bedi, a former Test bowler and India's second highest wicket-taker, said: "I don't know why they were put in — you had better ask the captain about that."

I think our batsmen would have wanted to bat first. Personally, I would have wan-

ted to bowl on that wicket in the fourth innings."

Azharuddin, appointed India's third captain in the space of four months for the tour of New Zealand earlier this year, defended his decision.

"We had a very good session. We took

an early wicket and should have had Graham Gooch out cheaply, and if that wicket had gone down it could have turned into a very good start," he said.

The ball was moving around, but we did not bowl well after that first session."

Walsh takes Gloucester to brink of first victory

LONDON, July 27. (Reuters): West Indies pace bowler Courtney Walsh steered Gloucestershire to the verge of their first county cricket championship win of the season yesterday.

Walsh, who took three wickets as Northamptonshire were dismissed for just 150 runs on Wednesday, picked up another five at Cheltenham as the visitors collapsed to 72 for six.

But an unbroken seventh wicket stand of 41 between Nigel Feltman and David Ripley took the match into a third day although Gloucestershire, who had declared 305 runs ahead, still look set to pick up their first win of the summer today.

Championship leaders Middlesex set themselves up for another third day run-chase against Kent at Canterbury.

Captain Mike Gatting declared at 308 for three after Mark Ramprakash's second consecutive century. John Emburey took two wickets in four balls as Kent fell to 30 for three, 171 ahead. Middlesex, who won a run chase in the final over against Somerset earlier in the week, will be hoping for a reasonable declaration from acting Captain Mark Benson.

Earlier, Simon Hinks (234) and Neil Taylor (152 not out) set a new Kent record with a second-wicket stand of 366.

Scores

A Scarborough: Somerset 401 for seven declared in 104.5 overs and 49 for one. Yorkshire 303 in 91.4 overs (S. Lambitt five for 34, R. Illingworth five for 59) and 39 for one.

At Derby: Worcestershire 348 in 123.3 overs (S. Basie six for 105). Derbyshire 192 in 91.4 overs (S. Lambitt five for 34, R. Illingworth five for 59) and 39 for one.

At Canterbury: Kent 449 for two declared in 123.1 overs (S. Hinks 234, N. Taylor 152 not out) and 30 for three declared in 110 overs and 10 for two. Glamorgan 373 for seven declared in 97 overs (H. Morris 106, R. Croft 74 not out, P. Cotter 50; A. Pierson five for 10).

At Arundel: Sussex 383 for nine declared in 121 overs (A. Pigott 64 not out). Hampshire 254 for five in 98 overs (C. Smith 132 not out, T. Middleton 50).

At Leicester: Essex 197 in 66.3 overs and 154 for four (J. Stevenson 62 not out, N. Shahid 48). Leicestershire 301 in 102.3 overs (N. Briers 92, W. Benjamin 54, L. Potter 48).

At Southport: Lancashire 452 in 108 overs. Nottinghamshire 205 in 54 overs (C. Broad 122, K. Evans 48 not out; P. Allott four for 37) and 229 for three (P. Johnson 69 not out, C. Broad 46, T. Robinson 41).

At Cheltenham: Northamptonshire 150 in 45.4 overs and 113 for six. Gloucestershire 455 for nine declared in 142.2 overs (A. Wright 112, K. Curran 86, R. Williams 44 not out).

Andries aims for revenge in title fight

MELBOURNE, Australia, July 27. (AP): Dennis Andries has revenge on his mind today as he concluded preparations for his challenge for the world boxing council light-heavyweight title held against Australian Jeff Harding.

Harding won the title with a dramatic 12th-round knockout over veteran Andries in Atlantic City 13 months ago and makes his third defense against the former titleholder at the National Tennis Centre tomorrow night.

England pile up mammoth score

Gooch slams India for 333

LONDON, July 27. (Reuters): England captain Graham Gooch hit a magnificent 333, the sixth highest score in Test cricket history, to submerge India beneath a sea of records on the second day of the first Test at Lord's today.

Gooch came within 33 runs of breaking Sir Garfield Sobers world record of 365 as England amassed 653 for four declared, a record for Tests between England and India.

The 37-year-old Gooch, 194 not out overnight, surpassed the highest score ever made by a Test captain, the most by any batsman in first-class cricket at Lord's and became only the fifth Englishman to strike 300 in a Test match.

When he was finally bowled off-stump by Manoj Prabhakar he had batted for 10 hours 33 minutes, hitting three sixes and 43 fours in his 485-ball stay.

Only Sobers, who had made 365 not out for West Indies against Pakistan in Kingston in 1958, England's Sir Len Hutton (364) Pakistan's Hanif Mohammad (337), England's Wally Hammond (336 not out) and Australia's Sir Donald Bradman (334) have made more runs in one Test innings.

Allan Lamb, 104 not out when play started, hit a Test-best 139 and Robin Smith also made an unbeaten century before Gooch's declaration finally put India out of their misery.

Gooch passed a host of landmarks at regular intervals from the moment he and Lamb resumed in the morning at 359 for two.

He eclipsed his own career-best Test score of 196 set against Australia at the Oval in 1985 and, at 240, equalled the previous highest Test score by an Englishman at Lord's held by Wally Hammond.

SPORTS BRIEFS

LeMond back on his bike: Greg LeMond has returned to cycling, but he has been hampered in the exhibition races by muscle aches and other soreness incurred in winning the 3,400-kilometre (2,137-mile) Tour de France.

LeMond, citing saddle sores from the last week of the Tour, skipped the first two criteriums of the week, including a return visit to an American-French school in Liseux on Monday. He had gone there following his Tour de France victories in 1986 and 1989 and promised to return as the winner of the Tour de France again."

Utiny creates fight for places: For West Germany soccer players, the new season will be more than just the chase for the championship — it will be the first time they will have to compete with East Germany for a position in the national team.

With unification of the two Germanys only months away, West German national coach Bernd Vogts has started to look east. And he has found some interesting players for his future all-German team.

Salsabil to miss showpiece: Triple classic-winning filly Salsabil will miss today's mid-summer Ascot horse racing showpiece, the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes.

A spokesman for trainer John Dunlop said on Friday: "It has been decided not to run Salsabil in view of the prevailing going and the now reduced likelihood of rain in the next 36 hours."

England face defeat: Struggling England face their first ever rugby union defeat by Argentina in the opening Test today.

England have lost three of their four tour matches so far and although the squad is experimental ahead of the 1991 World Cup, few envisaged such a poor start from a team which did so well in the Five Nations championship.



Gooch: took the Indian bowlers to task

Jordan Raid

Al Hajri wins

AMMAN, July 27: Driving a Ford Bruno, Saeed Al Hajri took a resounding victory in the BP 2000 Jordan Raid, the third and half way event in the 1990 Marathon des Sables. The 2000-kilometre race, driven by Fred Gallagher, Al Hajri finished ahead of Maribah Patel, Sheikh Suheil Bin Khalifa from Dubai. In third overall place in a modified Nissan Patrol was the brilliant young Qatari Nasser Al Attiya. And another Qatari Mohammed Al Mannaai also in a Patrol was fourth.

This result sees Al Hajri increasing his lead in the 1990 Maribah Desert Challenge to twelve points over Suheil Bin Khalifa. "It really has been a good day for me. This morning I was in a bad place, but today others had bad luck, and I had the honour of the Bronze," said a jubilant Al Hajri at the finish.

"Well we thought we were well placed this morning, but after the first couple of stages Saeed had built up a massive lead," said Qatari driver Khalifa, at the finish. "At this stage we knew there was no way to catch him so we set down in battle for second overall place which we achieved." Bin Khalifa was partnered by Mubarak Al Hajri, a cousin of the winner.

Results

1. Al Hajri (Qatar/JK) Ford Bruno 03:20:45; 2. Khalifa/Al Hajri (Qatar/Maribah Patel) 03:30:49; 3. Attiya/Al Mannaai (Qatar/Nissan Patrol) 03:53:29; 4. Al Mannaai (Qatar) Nissan Patrol 04:02:49; 5. Al Thani/Al Marni (Qatar) Nissan Patrol 04:11:25; 6. Al Mufti/Naser (Jordan) Range Rover 04:34:58.

Points

Group 1: 2. Saeed Al Hajri (Qatar) 42 points; 3. Suheil Bin Khalifa (Qatar) 40; 4. Al Mannaai (Qatar) 25.

Group 2: 1. Nasser Al Attiya (Qatar) 38 points; 2. Mohammed Al Mannaai (Saudi Arabia) 17.

Moody hits ton in 26 minutes

LONDON, July 27: (Reuters): Australian Tom Moody hit the fastest cricket century of all time in just 26 minutes today.

He was batting for Warwickshire in their English county championship game against Glamorgan at Swansea.

The 24-year-old Moody, who needed only 36 balls to reach three figures, comfortably beat the previous record of 35 minutes held jointly by Percy Underwood (Surrey) 1920) and Stevie O'Shaughnessy of Lancashire (1983).

Moody's century was not, however, the fastest in terms of balls received. Fellow Australian David Hookes scored a hundred in just 34 balls for South Australia against Victoria in Adelaide in the 1982-83 season.

Moody's achievement, like that of O'Shaughnessy, was also devasted by the quality of the bowling.

Glamorgan used occasional bowlers Matthew Maynard and Tony Cottier who conceded 136 runs between them in 12 overs to hasten a Warwickshire declaration on 212 for three. That set Glamorgan a victory target of 283 off 52 overs.

Moody made an unbeaten 103, having hit seven sixes and 11 fours.

The feat occurred on the same ground where Sir Garfield Sobers hit six sixes in one over for Nottinghamshire against Glamorgan in 1968.

Calcavecchia fined \$272

ZANDVOORT, Netherlands, July 27. (Reuters): Mark Calcavecchia, who missed the cut in his British Open title defence last week, crashed out again in the Dutch Open today and was then fined £150 (\$272) for unprofessional conduct.

The American golfer had a six and two sevens in his 79 for a disastrous 14-over-par 154 which left him 18 strokes behind early second-round leader Steve McAllister of Britain.

PGA tournament director Andy McFee said Calcavecchia had paid the fine at once.

"Basically he had an argument with a crossing point sign at the seventh. He took a swipe at it, after hitting into the bushes, with sufficient force to cause a degree of damage."

Italy modifies soccer rule

ROME, July 27. (Reuters): Italian soccer authorities yesterday modified a controversial rule that helped Napoli win its second Italian League title in three years.

Napoli was awarded an extra point in an April 8 match at Atalanta after Brazilian midfielder Alemao withdrew with a head injury having been hit by a coin thrown from the crowd.

The rule that awarded the affected side a 2-0 win has been changed. The home side will still be punished by loss of points if crowd violence influences the outcome of a match, but the victim will not receive extra points.

The extra point helped Napoli catch their leaders AC Milan at the top with two rounds to go. Napoli finally won the title two points ahead of Milan.

Harris triumphs

LA CORUNA, Spain, July 27. (Reuters): Danny Harris, dipped under 48 seconds for the sixth time this year when he won the 400 metres hurdles at an international athletics meeting last night.

The American finished in 47.96 seconds to beat Zambian Samuel Matete (48.37) and Jamaican Wimpy Graham (48.70).

Harris, the only man in 1990 to go under 48 seconds, has a fastest time of 47.49 this year.

British Kiri Akabusi threatened to drop away as Graham and Matete closed in. But the American's final sprint proved decisive.

There was a close duel in the rain between world champion Greg Foster and major rival Renaldo Nehemiah in the 110 metres hurdles.



Soviet runner Natalya Artemova celebrates after winning the 1,500m race on Wednesday. Right: Dan O'Brien of the US clears a hurdle in the men's decathlon competition on Wednesday. (Reuters wirephoto)



US trounce Soviets

SEATTLE, July 27. (AP): The Soviets turned Yankee and, as expected, got knocked senseless.

The US pastime began last night when the Soviets made their international basketball debut against a team of American collegians. They allowed four runs in the first inning, five more in the second and lost 17-0. The game was called after 6-1/2 innings on the 10-run rule.

Nobody thought it would be pretty, least of all the Soviets.

"The Goodwill Games tournament opener makes the USSR play against the Americans, and let them have enough time to come to their senses after the game," reads the Soviet basketball brochure.

"They're coming along slowly, that's for sure," said Mike Hostetter, who played against the Soviets in 1988 while at Georgia Tech. "They're about the same as when we beat them 13-0 at Georgia Tech."

While the United States was laying it on the Soviets at Cheney Stadium in Tacoma, the Americans at Husky Stadium were superb, Hollis Conway, Doug Nordquist and Tony Barton swept the high jump; Sandra Farmer-Patrick had no trouble in the 400 hurdles as Americans were 1-2-3 again; Kenny Harrison took the triple jump; the men's and women's 400 relay teams were winners, as was the men's 1,600 metre relay.

Jackie Joyner-Kersee, who was battling the heptathlon with a subpar score, has an injured right leg and might miss the rest of the season. Her husband and coach, Bob Kersee, said yesterday his wife had "a second degree strain in the right quad."

"Me being very cautious, I would assume her season is over," he said. "It might be a year."

Track and field

The United States went over the 100 medal mark when Farmer-Patrick led the sweep of the 400. She was trailed by Schwon Williams and Jancene Vickers.

The three American medalists in the high jump were challenged by Sorin Matciu of Romania, the top-ranked jumper this year. But Conway was the only one over 7 feet, 3-1/4 inches.

Nordquist, Barton and Matciu all made 7-6 1/2, but Nordquist did so on his first attempt, getting the silver, and Barton cleared on his second try for the bronze. It took Matciu three tries.

Harrison soared 58-1 on his last jump, edging Mike Conley, who had 57-41-4 on his final leap.

Dennis Mitchell outlasted Cuban Joaquin Isasi at the finish to win the men's 100m relay in 38.45 seconds.

Ice hockey

The US hockey team's chances took an upward turn when one of the Soviet stars, Sergei Fedorov, quit the team to join the Detroit Red Wings of the NHL.